

Washington enforces embargo against devastated Iraq

U.S. says Central Command post to be set up in Bahrain

BY SETH GALINSKY

In an escalation of threats and aggression against the people of Iraq, U.S. pilots shot down two Iraqi military planes on March 20 and 22. "If other planes violate the agreement, they will be shot down," U.S. President George Bush warned soon after the first assault.

Gen. Colin Powell, Chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, made Washington's goals clear. "I think the interest of the region would be best served with Saddam Hussein

ask us, and the answer is no."

The U.S. government claims it has the right to dictate to the Iraqi government when its aircraft can and cannot fly according to a March 3 provisional cease-fire agreement. The terms of the cease-fire remain secret.

On March 20 two Iraqi planes took off from Kirkuk, the scene of fighting between Kurdish rebels and Iraqi government troops, and headed southwest. U.S. combat planes

intercepted the Iraqi craft and without warning shot one down with a Sidewinder heat-seeking missile. The pilot apparently died when his parachute did not open.

Two days later U.S. aircraft shot down another Iraqi plane. These attacks form part of several measures taken by U.S.-led forces in the Arab-Persian Gulf to step up the pressure on the Iraqi government headed by President Saddam Hussein.

On March 17 U.S. forces left the U.S. occupied zone and blew up an Iraqi munitions dump at the southern end of Um Qasr, a coastal town. Four days later U.S. army units with tanks approached an Iraqi checkpoint near the same town and captured four soldiers.

The Iraqis were forced to walk a half mile,

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Lift the blockade!
See editorial on page 14.

out of power, and I think the interest of the region would be best served if Iraq remains a single country," he said March 22.

U.S. forces will continue "to provide a presence in that part of Iraq that we currently are located in for some months to come," Powell stated. The troops are there "to respond to anything that might happen in the region until a regional security arrangement has been put in place."

Washington is seeking to use its occupation of southern Iraq and control of airspace over the entire country, along with the economic embargo, to weaken the Iraqi government and bring to power a subservient regime in Baghdad — a protectorate. This has been the U.S. ruler's goal from the start of the conflict.

Iraq's Revolutionary Command Council informed the allied military command March 14 that it planned to move some airplanes. According to a U.S. official, Gen. Norman Schwarzkopf essentially told the Iraqis, "You don't tell us what you're going to do, you

'Police Chief Gates must go!' demanded in wake of beating

BY NELSON BLACKSTOCK

LOS ANGELES — New revelations of cop brutality and racism in the wake of the brutal police beating of Rodney King are fueling demands for the ouster of Police Chief Daryl Gates.

The furor erupted after the repeated airing on national television of a videotape made by a plumber from the balcony of his apartment. It shows a gang of police savagely beating King as he lay helpless on the street the night of March 3.

Two-thirds of those interviewed in a March 22 *Los Angeles Times* poll favored Gates resigning immediately or quitting if an investigation finds the cops guilty of wrongdoing. A poll the previous week found less than half of those polled held these views.

The focal point of the calls for Gates' removal are demonstrations at police headquarters. Three hundred protested March 23

in an action spearheaded by the NAACP.

In an appearance before the Wilmington Homeowners Association, Elizabeth Stone, Socialist Workers Party candidate for Board of Trustees of the Los Angeles County Community College District, said that police "attacks on Black, Latino, and immigrant workers can no longer be tolerated. Gates has got to go." There were nods of agreement.

Stone has been active in supporting community college students organizing to combat police brutality.

On March 19, William Robertson, head of the Los Angeles County Federation of Labor, called for Gates to resign.

"I think there is a real groundswell within the community of people who feel precisely the same way," Robertson said. The labor official added that he was "disappointed" and "dismayed" that Los Angeles Mayor Thomas Bradley and the city council hadn't called on Gates to resign.

Later that day the mayor said that "it would help in the healing process if the chief would retire."

Four policemen are charged with assault for beating and kicking King, who was struck 56 times. They remain free on bail and have been granted a delay before entering a plea of innocent or guilty.

Evidence from grand jury deliberations leading to the indictments has brought to light more damning facts. Transcripts of typed computer messages after the King beating show cops describing "our last call" as "right out of *Gorillas in the Mist*." (See transcripts

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Los Angeles demonstration demanding Gates' ouster.

A BOOK FOR THE FACTS ON WASHINGTON'S MIDEAST WAR

U.S. Hands Off the Mideast! Cuba Speaks Out at the United Nations, also available in Spanish, is now in its third printing. It is an irreplaceable tool in learning and getting out the truth about the brutal U.S.-led war against the Iraqi people. An introduction by Mary-Alice Waters reviews the systematic buildup to war by Washington and the role played by Cuba at the United Nations.

Featured in the book are statements by Cuban Ambassador to the UN Ricardo Alarcón and President Fidel Castro that rebut the pretexts and arguments used by Washington to justify its unilateral acts of aggression. Unionists, GIs, veterans, students, and workers involved in struggles against the employers' offensive at home can use the facts and arguments in the book to educate about the imperialists' war. They can join in campaigning against the continued drive by Washington to punish the Iraqi people and dominate the region.

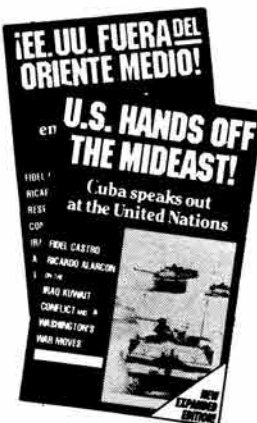
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U.S. demands war pledge payments; heightens tensions with imperialist rivals

BY JAMES HARRIS

The U.S. Senate overwhelmingly approved a bill March 19 that bars government funds for arms sales to nations that fail to pay monies pledged to Washington for its prosecution of the Arab-Persian Gulf war.

The move, in the wake of Washington's war against Iraq, acerbates the tensions between the U.S. rulers and their imperialist rivals in Germany and Japan.

If the pledges are paid, the U.S. government would receive \$54 billion, giving them a fat \$11 billion dollar profit over the House Appropriations Committee's estimate of \$42.6 billion for the war's cost. Congress is pressing hard to insure the windfall is collected.

"The pace at which we are receiving contributions from our allies is of real concern

to me," Senator Robert Byrd, chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee said in the Senate the day the bill was approved.

For Washington there is some reason for concern. As of March 20 there were still outstanding pledges of \$28 billion. Some members of the German government question the need to pay the full amount of the pledge due to the quick end of the war and the resulting lower than estimated cost for the United States.

Leaders of Germany's Social Democratic Party, the major opposition party to the governing Christian Democrats, point to figures showing the U.S. government stands to make a profit on the war. Though the German government has stated it will pay all of its pledge, German Finance Minister Theo Wai-

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Protests condemn assassination of Haitian leader in Miami

BY NANCY COLE

MIAMI — Fritz Dor, a 33-year-old leader of the Haitian community's struggle for justice, was assassinated here March 15. Police say Dor was ambushed and fatally shot outside his Little Haiti office by a gunman and one accomplice, neither of whom have yet been apprehended.

Dor's murder came a few days after an unidentified man came into the studios of WKAT-AM radio where Dor broadcast two weekly Creole-language programs. The intruder threatened Dor because his programs defended the newly elected government of Jean-Bertrand Aristide in Haiti. Aristide was elected to office after a massive struggle by Haiti's working people put an end to a succession of dictatorial regimes.

A month earlier, on February 18, Jean Claude Oliver, another Creole-language radio broadcaster who had come out in support of Aristide, was killed.

Four days after Dor's murder, a gigantic explosion — the biggest here in twenty-five years, according to the police — destroyed a building that housed the offices of the Haitian-American Foundation as well as three

shops owned by Ringo Cayard, another Haitian broadcaster. Although police are saying the explosion was not intentionally set off, many people believe it is part of the pattern of violent attacks on Haitian activists.

Veye-yo, the largest activist organization fighting for Haitian rights here, issued a statement pointing out that Dor's murder was aimed at intimidating supporters of democracy in Haiti. "The sun has started to rise in Haiti," the statement says. "It is in this moment that these assassins decided to take the life of a brother, a friend, and more importantly — a good-hearted person in the community."

Wanda González, the cochairperson of the Puerto Rican Positive Task Force, also scored the killing as an attempt to intimidate all those struggling for social change. "As our struggle begins to get good results," she said in an interview, "some people get scared. Maybe that's why we're getting threats. These two innocent people who were killed, they were only helping the community. The system is not working the way it's supposed to."

Maria Reyes, a member of the Executive Committee of the Alianza de Trabajadores en la Comunidad (Alliance of Workers in the Community), an organization of Miami Cubans who favor normalization of relations between the United States and Cuba, said, "Both of those murdered were supporters of Aristide. This is designed to intimidate the Haitian community, which should not happen in this country."

Bill Rayson, a steward in the National Association of Letter Carriers who worked closely with Dor, expressed outrage at the killing. He urged the many union officials who had met Dor through his Haitian solidarity activities to demand the authorities promptly arrest and prosecute those responsible. "All unionists and others fighting for justice need to respond urgently to these murders. We should protest ongoing threats and intimidation against other Haitians," Rayson said.

Fritz Dor was a central leader of Veye-yo. He was also a member of the board of directors of the Haitian Refugee Center.

Dor helped organize tours in 1987-88 for three leaders of CATH, the main independent union in Haiti at that time. He served as a translator during these tours and helped raise aid and support for Haiti's embattled unions from many of Miami's biggest union locals.

In 1988, he participated in a tour of Nicaragua organized by the Postal Workers for Peace. Fluent in English, Spanish, French, and Creole, he helped translate for the unionists who made up the tour group. Upon returning to Miami, Dor helped organize a public forum on Nicaragua at the Little Haiti Activities Center.

While neither the mayor or other members of the city commission have responded to demands for the arrest and prosecution of those responsible for Dor's murder, Miami police have announced the formation of a special task force.



Militant/Nancy Cole

Killing of Fritz Dor comes after a massive popular outpouring in Haiti resulting in the election of Jean-Bertrand Aristide as president. Above, a scene from Aristide's inauguration celebration in Port-au-Prince. The sign says, "Women should participate in everything taking place in the country."

U.S. and Canadian governments report unemployment is up

The U.S. Labor Department reported that the unemployment rate increased in February to 6.5 percent, up from 6.2 percent in January. The three-tenths of one percent climb represents 450,000 workers.

Unemployment a year ago stood at 5.3 percent. The number of people looking for full-time jobs but only working part-time has reached 6.1 million, the highest level since 1983.

Layoffs hit workers in auto, industrial machine manufacturing, construction, and fabricated metal production the hardest. Overall jobs in manufacturing dropped by 125,000 in February.

Unemployment in large states was severest in Michigan with 9.8 percent unemployment and Massachusetts with 9.3 percent. Joblessness declined in Illinois, North Carolina, and Texas.

Canada's unemployment increased to 10.2 percent in February, from 9.7 percent in January — a loss of 61,000 jobs, mostly in manufacturing. Ontario, the country's largest province, was hit hardest.

Government officials in both countries expect increased unemployment in the next several months, but are currently predicting an economic upturn beginning in the last half of 1991.

Miami socialist calls for killers' arrest

A March 20 memorial meeting for Fritz Dor, attended by 2,000 people, was sponsored by Veye-yo, a Haitian rights organization in Miami. Peter Seidman, the Socialist Workers Party candidate for Miami City Commission, spoke at the meeting. Below we reprint his remarks.

The murder of Haitian activist Fritz Dor on March 15 is an attack on all supporters of democratic and political rights in this country, as well as in Haiti. This can only be judged a political assassination aimed at intimidating and creating fear in Miami's Haitian community.

The Socialist Workers Party salutes the political contribution Fritz Dor made to the struggle in Haiti, to organizing efforts here in Miami, and to the international fight for freedom and justice. Specifically, we recall his radio broadcasts telling the truth about Haiti, his efforts to promote international labor union solidarity, and his actions in support of the people of Nicaragua. His commitment and talents will be sorely missed

but his life will serve as inspiration to those of us who continue the struggle.

The election of Jean-Bertrand Aristide through a popular outpouring has opened a new day in Haiti, where U.S.-backed dictatorships have ruled for many decades. The hard-won democratic and political rights conquered through massive struggle offer the working people and farmers of Haiti a chance to discuss and to organize to solve the gigantic social and economic problems facing their country.

It is this hope, shared by Haitians in their homeland and in exile around the world, that enemies of democratic change and progress want to destroy through terror such as the murder of Fritz Dor.

Miami's mayor and city commission demonstrated contempt for international freedom struggles when they denounced Nelson Mandela last year. Earlier this year they said they would deny use of city facilities to the Haitian community if the president of Cuba was invited to Aristide's inauguration in Haiti. These disgraceful actions — com-

bined with the unprovoked police assault on Haitian protesters last July — give aid and comfort to those who would use terror in pursuit of their reactionary goals.

The climate of violence in this city is also encouraged by the government's brutal use of U.S. military force to attain its political goals in the Arab-Persian Gulf.

This atmosphere of fear and intimidation must end. The city commission must declare Miami a city where all political viewpoints are free to be heard, where political activity in support of those views is protected under the constitution, and where any acts of violence and intimidation are swiftly and severely dealt with.

As a candidate for city commission, I demand that the mayor, the city commission, and the police department devote full resources to arresting and prosecuting the cowardly perpetrators of this crime. No expense must be spared, no stone turned in pursuing the goal of winning justice for Fritz Dor.



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Washington organizes campaign against Cuba at UN human rights meeting

BY JOHN STUDER

GENEVA — The United Nations Commission on Human Rights completed its 47th annual session here March 8. The six-week meeting concluded by adopting a motion to place the situation of political rights in Cuba on the agenda of next year's meeting.

Sponsored by the U.S. government and several other countries, the resolution calls for a special representative to conduct a year-long investigation of Cuba and report back to next year's session.

In a March 6 vote, 22 government representatives voted in favor of Washington's resolution. This included Argentina, the first time that government has voted for a U.S.-initiated resolution on human rights in Cuba. The Soviet Union, Iraq, the Ukraine, Ethiopia, and China opposed the measure along with Cuba. Fifteen governments, including those of Mexico, Colombia, Venezuela, Brazil, and Peru, abstained.

"Western diplomats characterized the commission meeting as 'dramatically positive,'" the Associated Press reported at the end of the session.

Washington has used the commission hearing in a relentless campaign to smear Cuba over a number of years.

In 1988 the Ronald Reagan administration succeeded, after a vigorous pressure campaign and a tough diplomatic battle, in getting the commission to conduct its first investigation into Cuban "human rights abuses."

The Cuban government responded by inviting the commission to send a delegation to visit prisons; talk with a wide variety of persons, including "dissidents"; and discuss the matter with Cuban President Fidel Castro and other government officials.

A 400-page report issued by the investigative team did not produce any concrete proof of human rights abuses in Cuba. A 350-page document with testimony from right-wing Cuban groups and individuals outside Cuba was included, however, as an addendum to the report.

Earlier meetings reject U.S. demands

At the 1989 meeting the commission rejected the U.S. delegates' demands that it continue the anti-Cuba effort.

In a vote in the 1990 session, 19 governments backed a U.S. proposal to place Cuba on the 1991 agenda of the commission. Castro called the vote "a product of pressure, bribes, and blackmail by the United States," in a March 7, 1990 speech. Twelve governments voted against the resolution and 12 abstained.

At this year's session the U.S. government delegation was headed by J. Kenneth Blackwell, who has been part of previous U.S. delegations and is Black.

In his address to the commission under the agenda item on "Violations of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms in Any Part of

the World," Blackwell led by attacking the government of Iraq, as U.S. warplanes flew thousands of bombing raids against that country.

"The atrocities perpetrated in Kuwait will rank as one of the cruelest episodes of human rights abuses carried out by the regime of Saddam Hussein," Blackwell stated.

Foreshadowing the invasion of Iraq that was to come shortly and U.S. intentions to continue to press for a servile regime there after the war, Blackwell said, "We hope that the forthcoming liberation of Kuwait from Iraqi invaders will also help create a new situation of greatly increased respect for the human rights of the people of Iraq."

Blackwell then targeted Cuba, which he described as "another country whose officials claim to act on behalf of their people and decide what rights they may enjoy." He alleged that he could identify Cuba as a "repressive regime" because its government turned its back on human rights in the name of a "self-appointed... 'vanguard of the people'."

U.S. government slanders

Blackwell quoted a lengthy denunciation of Cuba, published by Americas Watch, that claimed Cuba's "human rights practices are sharply at odds with international standards."

"Given world trends involving greater democracy and increased respect for human rights," Blackwell went on to state, "Cuba is more and more isolated in its refusal to adhere to internationally accepted standards."

Blackwell concluded his speech by asserting that "Twenty-six-year-old José Antonio Sanz Campo of Cuba cannot be here, for he was killed in police custody on May 31, 1990, after his arrest for illegally selling mangoes." Since this alleged victim of murder by Cuban authorities could not speak for himself, Blackwell said, the commission must act on his behalf.

The U.S. government call for UN action to isolate Cuba was echoed by the representative of the government of Panama, a regime installed during the U.S. invasion of that country at the end of 1989.

The Panamanian representative gave the floor under this item to Ricardo Bofill, a Cuban used by Washington to press its anti-Cuba campaign. He delivered a 10-minute diatribe against the Cuban government and its president, Fidel Castro. Bofill claimed to have a dossier containing charges of 431 violations of human rights by government authorities in Cuba.

"The government of Cuba, in the person of its maximum leader Fidel Castro, has many times recently proclaimed itself as an orthodox Marxist-Leninist regime," Bofill charged.

"In fact, Cuba is dominated by a regime of the Stalinist style," he contended.

"There exists clear, incontestable, categor-

ical, and easily verifiable evidence," Bofill said, "that the conduct of the Castro government has created grave problems of human rights which require the attention, the vigilance, the analysis, and the judgment of the Human Rights Commission of the United Nations."

This campaign was echoed by the International Association of Educators for World Peace. The organization used its speaking time under every agenda item to denounce Cuba.

These attacks were answered by Raúl Roa Kouri, Cuba's vice-minister of foreign affairs and head of its delegation to the commission.

Roa said that the record of the Cuban revolution on human rights was "quite different from the pharisaic and hypocritical discourse of the U.S. government, that attributes blame to and fro while forgetting that their planes — which sowed death on Panama's humble neighborhoods only a year ago — are now dropping thousands of bombs on Iraq's civilian population and on the houses and refugees of noncombatants in Baghdad and Basra, as Cuban physicians and nurses serving in Iraqi hospitals have witnessed."

Roa pointed out that one of the "human rights activists" promoted by Washington the previous year, Tania Díaz Castro, recently told the French news service Agence France-Presse that "she had been fooled by members of the staff of the U.S. Interests Section" in Havana and that she and her allies had been "no more than idiotic soldiers" manipulated by the U.S. government.

A 'hatred for Cuba'

Roa said that Washington's "hatred for our revolution, and the wish to impose on the commission a political vendetta against Cuba, is what hides behind the alleged U.S. 'concern' about human rights in Cuba."

Referring to Blackwell's claim that a Cuban youth had been murdered for illegally selling mangoes, Roa said, "I can most categorically affirm that no one in Cuba, much less anyone in authority, would perpetrate such a hideous crime."

"The unlimited cynicism of the U.S. government's assertions is unmasked by each Puerto Rican patriot incarcerated in the United States; each American Indian con-

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Mark Curtis sends solidarity message to Birmingham Six



Britain's Birmingham Six outside Old Bailey courthouse after release from 16 years in prison. The Six and their supporters fought the frame-up conviction and won their freedom March 14.

On March 14 in London the Birmingham Six won their freedom after being falsely imprisoned for 16 years.

Hugh Callaghan, Patrick Hill, Gerard Hunter, Richard McIlkenny, William Power, and John Walker — known as the Birmingham Six — were jailed for life in 1975 after being framed up for the 1974 bombings of two taverns in Birmingham, England.

A determined international defense campaign on their behalf by relatives and other supporters led to the discrediting of state's evidence and to the exposure of brutal frame-up methods, including beatings, by the police.

Below is a solidarity statement by Mark Curtis sent to the Birmingham Six March 14 upon their release. Curtis is a union and political activist who was framed on false criminal charges and is serving a 25-year jail term in an Iowa state prison.

Dear Brothers,

Today, when I saw you on television leaving the Old Bailey courthouse, I almost jumped out of my seat with joy. One of the biggest frame-ups in Britain's long history of frame-ups has been completely destroyed.

A tremendous victory has been won for the democratic rights of people everywhere. Prisoners, especially those falsely imprisoned for political reasons, have our confidence renewed in winning our own freedom.

As one of them, I have closely followed your fight and educated others here in prison in the United States about it. My spirits are raised, and so is my confidence, in continuing

to press for the overturn of my own frame-up. Like you, I was beaten by the police. Your release is another indictment of the brutality of so-called "law and order" on both sides of the Atlantic.

This victory comes at a time when the rulers of Britain and the United States have unleashed one of the most ferocious military attacks in history on the people of Iraq. They claim to have done so in the name of democracy and national independence.

By being forced to set you free, Britain's empire suffers a blow against its occupation of Ireland and ruthless violation of the rights of countless Irish men and women. And they are dealt a blow to their attempts to justify their moves to increase their control of the resources of the Middle East.

Britain's rulers, like those of the United States, also have used the cover of the Gulf war to crack down, rounding up and jailing Arabs without cause. As you said: "They can't even spell justice, much less dispense it."

This fight was won by the millions who supported the Birmingham Six all over the world and by your determination over these 16 years. Your victory belongs to us all. I celebrate with you and pledge to work even harder to overturn all frame-ups.

In solidarity,

Mark Curtis

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Fund deadline extended; meetings set in 11 cities

BY CINDY JAQUITH

Special public meetings to celebrate the publication of the next two issues of the Marxist magazine *New International* are scheduled for 11 U.S. cities from late March to mid-April.

The meetings, sponsored by the New International Fund, will take place in Atlanta, Boston, Chicago,

donations toward the \$75,000 fund drive launched to help publish *New International*; *Nouvelle Internationale*, the magazine in French; and *Nueva Internacional*, the new Spanish-language magazine.

Originally scheduled to end May 1, the fund drive has now been extended to June 1. This will allow supporters to maximize efforts to

nacional, which the bookstore will be carrying.

The publication plans of the three magazines are sure to elicit contributions. In all, 10 issues are scheduled: 3 of *New International*, 3 of *Nueva Internacional*, plus 2 new issues of *Nouvelle Internationale* and reprints of nos. 1 and 2 of that magazine.

The inaugural issue of *Nueva Internacional* and issue no. 4 of *Nouvelle Internationale* will both feature material from *New International* no. 7, the special issue on the war.

The Spanish- and French-language magazines will also carry, in future issues, the political resolutions adopted by the 1988 and 1990 Socialist Workers Party conventions. These will appear in English in *New International* no. 9.

All donations, large and small, are welcome to help this publishing project achieve its goals. The important thing is that all who wish to contribute are organized to do so. In many cases, supporters will make a pledge and establish a schedule of weekly payments.

This week's scoreboard reflects the changes with the extension of the fund deadline. Readers will notice something else new. Supporters in two additional U.S. cities — Albany, New York, and San Diego, California — have asked to be listed in the scoreboard. Together their pledges add \$1,350 to the total amount pledged, bringing that sum to \$73,750.

In a future issue, the scoreboard will list the pledges and progress of supporters in individual cities in Britain, Canada, and New Zealand.

Contributions may be sent to New International Fund, 410 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014.

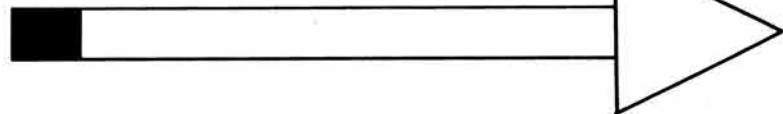
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Area	Goal	Paid	% of Total
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San Francisco	3,500	1,115	32%
Atlanta	2,300	465	20%
Austin, Minn.	750	150	20%
Los Angeles	6,000	1,130	19%
Miami	1,200	200	17%
Boston	1,500	200	13%
Philadelphia	2,000	150	8%
Albany, N.Y.	350		0%
Baltimore	900		0%
Birmingham, Ala.	1,750		0%
Chicago	2,600		0%
Cleveland	1,600		0%
Des Moines	1,000		0%
Detroit	2,100		0%
Greensboro, N.C.	750		0%
Houston	1,500		0%
Morgantown	1,250		0%
New York	7,000		0%
Newark, N.J.	3,800		0%
Omaha, Neb.	750		0%
Phoenix	750		0%
Pittsburgh	1,900		0%
Price, Utah	600		0%
Salt Lake City	1,700		0%
San Diego	1,000		0%
Seattle	2,250		0%
St. Louis	2,000		0%
Twin Cities, Minn.	1,750		0%
Washington, D.C.	1,250		0%
TOTAL U.S.	\$57,200	\$4,210	7%
Canada	4,250	1,330	31%
Australia	500		0%
Britain	6,500		0%
France	1,000		0%
Iceland	300		0%
New Zealand	3,000		0%
Sweden	1,000		0%
Other		90	0%
TOTAL OVERALL	\$73,750	\$5,630	8%
SHOULD BE	\$75,000	\$15,750	21%

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\$75,000



Cleveland, Des Moines, Houston, New York, Pittsburgh, San Francisco, St. Louis, and Price, Utah. They coincide with national gatherings of Socialist Workers Party members who belong to industrial trade unions; and in the case of Price, a Utah state meeting of SWP members.

The *New International* celebrations will feature a major talk on "Opening Guns of World War III: Washington's Assault on Iraq." The title comes from the lead article by Jack Barnes in *New International* no. 7, which will be a special issue on the war.

Issue no. 7 is scheduled to be off the press in mid-April, to be followed later in the month by issue no. 8, focusing on Che Guevara's contributions to the continuity of Marxism.

The public meetings will both promote the magazine and collect

use the fund to politically reach out to coworkers, working farmers, and young people, both to win them as readers of the Marxist magazine and to solicit donations.

The one-month extension enables supporters to take the time to carefully map out the most effective political use of the fund and the two new issues of *New International*.

This begins by alerting *Militant* subscribers, coworkers, readers of Pathfinder books, students who were active in opposing Washington's war in Iraq, and others to the publication plans announced by the editors of *New International*, *Nouvelle Internationale*, and *Nueva Internacional*.

The Pathfinder bookstore in Los Angeles, for example, recently sent a letter to regular patrons announcing the fund and the upcoming issues of *New International*, *Nouvelle Internationale*, and *Nueva Inter-*

Los Angeles protests demand 'Gates must go!'

Continued from front page below.)

A nurse at the hospital where King was taken told the grand jury that after the cops learned King had been a worker at Dodger Stadium, one cop taunted the injured man: "We played a little baseball tonight, didn't we?"

"What do you mean?" King asked.

"We played a little hardball tonight and you lost," answered another cop.

"We played a good game of hardball tonight, and we hit quite a few home runs, didn't we?" said another.

The nurse said that when she asked the cops what had happened to King, "One officer who was standing next to me patted his baton, and the other one sort of held his baton up in the air."

While earlier reports said 15 cops were involved in beating King, it has been revealed that at least 27 were present, including 21 from the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD).

Others were from the California Highway Patrol and a police agency that patrols schools.

Cops had also claimed they clocked King driving 115 miles an hour. But the car's maker, Hyundai, said the model can't exceed 100 miles per hour.

Meanwhile, Bryant Allen, one of two passengers in King's car, revealed new details about the incident. Allen said while he could not see King's beating, he could hear it.

"He was screaming, 'Stop!'" Allen recalled. "Then he kind of quit, and all you could hear was like bones being broken, a crunching, like a whip sound."

Allen said he himself was also kicked, beaten, and threatened by the cops. "You want to be like your home boy?" they asked him. "They were trying to get me to respond to that, because I'm a Black kid," said Allen.

King hasn't appeared in public since his initial release from the hospital and is now undergoing medical treatment.

The King beating has focused national attention on police brutality. President George Bush felt compelled to take his distance from the beating of King this week,

while maintaining support for Gates, whom he has praised highly in the past.

California State Assembly Speaker Willie Brown of San Francisco stated that the people of Los Angeles are out to "recapture their police force from the police... and turn it back over to the citizens."

Brown charged that the King beating "has not been dealt with as sternly and as firmly as it should have been dealt with. That starts with and ends with the police chief, period."

While local capitalist politicians have been hesitant to call for Gates to leave, three Los Angeles-area U.S. congressmen — Henry Waxman, Howard Berman, and

Anthony Beilenson — recently called for Gates' resignation.

Usually reluctant to criticize Gates at all, the March 19 *Los Angeles Times* called for him to step aside: "Chief Gates can now set the LAPD free of the controversy that surrounds him and thus set off a rebuilding of public confidence in the police."

Gates used a March 20 appearance before the city council to vigorously defend his actions. Afterward, Council President John Ferraro commented: "None of them said he should resign. By not saying anything, the council is saying he should stay."

Gates has gone on the offensive with a round of public appearances before various

groups. After the chief spoke before one "cross section of academic and business leaders," an observer told the *Times*, "they were very supportive of Gates."

Gates spoke to a rally of 3,000 supporters March 24 at the Police Academy, which sits inside a city park. Gates criticized FBI plans to interview, in their homes, some 200 police from the division in which the King beating occurred.

Local Urban League President John Mack, who calls for Gates' removal, said: "It's clear that the chief is rallying his forces, which tend to be primarily white and primarily conservative, and they are solidly in his corner. However, we are equally strong in our resolve."

Computer talk by cops on night of beating

The following is a transcript of the computer transmissions between squad cars and the watch commander's office of the Los Angeles Police Department's Foothill Division from 12:29 a.m.—12:32 a.m. and from 12:47 a.m. to the end of the transmission at 1:17 a.m. on March 3 — the morning Rodney King was brutally beaten by cops at a traffic stop.

12:29 a.m.: From unidentified foot-patrol cops in Sunland-Tujunga to officers Laurence Powell and Timothy Wind: What are you up to... We are up on the rock with [cars] L170, 82, and A89 on top of some abandon house with narco and BGMV [burglary from motor vehicle] suspects in it... We are waiting for them to hit some places.

12:31: From Powell and Wind to foot patrol officers: Sounds almost exciting as our last call... It was right out of "Gorillas in the Mist."

12:32: From the foot patrol officers to Powell and Wind: HaHaHaHa... let me guess who be the parties.

12:47: From emergency board operator to all units: CHP advises their officers are in pursuit of a vehicle failing to yield southbound Paxton-Foothill... Vehicle is white Hyundai, license 2KFM102, now approaching Glenoaks... Vehicle is now northbound Van Nuys-Bordon... Foothill RTO [radio-telephone operator] is taking over the broadcasting of the pursuit [car] 16A23 [Powell and Wind] is the primary unit... Now eastbound Van Nuys at Fulton... stopped at a light southbound Van Nuys at Foothill... two male black occupants... Vehicle still refusing to yield now eastbound Foothill at Osborne...

Powell and Wind then get out of their car.

12:56: From Sgt. Stacy Koon to Foothill watch commander's office: You just had a big time use of force... tased and beat the suspect of CHP pursuit, Big Time.

12:57: From watch commander's office to Koon: Oh well... I'm sure the lizard didn't deserve it... HaHa I'll let them know O.K.

1:11: From Koon to watch commander's office: I'm gonna drop by the station for a fresh taser and darts... please have the desk have one ready.

1:11: From watch commander's office to Koon: Okey dok on the ACC desk... You want extra darts??? It's got two.

1:12: From Powell and Wind to the foot patrol officer: ...oops.

1:12: From the foot patrol to Powell and Wind: oops, what?

1:13: From Powell and Wind to the foot patrol: I haven't beaten anyone this bad in a long time.

1:15: From the foot patrol to Powell and Wind: Oh not again... Why for you do that... I thought you agreed to chill out for awhile... What did he do....

1:16: From Powell and Wind to the foot patrol: I think he was dusted [on cocaine]... many broken bones later... After the pursuit...

1:17: From the foot patrol to Powell and Wind: What pursuit...

Press conference, messages protest defacing of mural

BY SELVA NEBBIA

NEW YORK — Friends of the Pathfinder Mural held a press conference here March 20 to protest the latest attack against the Pathfinder Mural.

On March 17, two glass containers were hurled at the wall splattering a large amount of red paint and acid on several portraits of the Pathfinder mural. The six-story mural is on the Pathfinder building on Manhattan's west side.

"This is the second act of vandalism against the mural since its unveiling in November 1989," explained Meryl Lynn Farber, executive director of Friends of the Pathfinder Mural in her statement to the press.

"Damage was done to the portraits of nineteenth century Cuban independence fighters José Martí and Máximo Gómez; to the banner declaring 'For a world without borders'; to the portrayal of the children forced to work in the mines until union battles won child labor laws; to the painting of Cuban President Fidel Castro; and others," said Farber.

"The defacement of the mural takes place in the wake of other assaults over the past year on the right to paint, perform, write, or produce photographic works," said the director of Friends of the Pathfinder Mural.

Many messages of protest from prominent individuals and defenders of democratic rights were sent, responding to a call from the Friends of the Pathfinder Mural to demand that city authorities investigate the

incident and prosecute those responsible.

Alderman Harry Rankin of Vancouver, British Columbia, sent a message in his name and that of four other alderpersons calling on Mayor Dinkins "to bring these vandals to justice and provide assistance to restore this mural to its original state."

"The destruction of art in New York City cannot be condoned," read the message by Edith Tiger, director of the National Emergency Civil Liberties Committee. "We have the right to speak, a right to hear, and a right to see."

Messages were also sent by New York mayor David Dinkins; Manhattan Borough President Ruth Messinger; Marshall Garcia, executive vice-president, Local 1199, Hospital and Health Care Employees Union; filmmaker Nick Castle; William Kunstler, attorney; Frank Somarriva, organization secretary, Nicaraguan Artists Union; June Svetlovsky and David Cline, Vietnam Veterans Against the War, Clarence Fitch Chapter; Jon Pounds, director, Chicago Public Art Group; Larry Adams, president, Local 300, National Postal Mail Handlers Union; Tomás Villanueva, president, United Farm Workers of Washington State; Madeline Yayodele Nelson, of the musical group Women of the Calabash; Valorie Caffee, president, New Jersey Anti-Apartheid Mobilization Coalition; the Bard College Progressive Action Collaborative; and many others.

Messages were also received from many of the artists who collaborated on the project.

"The vandals will not silence us," read the



Militant/Eric Simpson

Section of mural hit by red paint and acid

statement by artist Carole Byard. "Our voices will still be heard. We will pick up our brushes once more." Byard painted the mural portrait of U.S. revolutionary leader Malcolm X.

Cuban artist Aldo Soler, who painted the portrait of Castro and that of Karl Marx on the mural, sent a message. The "attack on the Pathfinder Mural is an act that should be condemned all over the world," he said. "The attack on the mural is not only an act of censorship of a work of art, but of the ideas behind the work as well."

The mural was the collective undertaking of 80 artists from 20 different countries who over the course of almost three years volunteered their time and effort to create the huge work of public art. With a big printing press at its center, the mural depicts a huge dem-

onstration of the world's oppressed and exploited along with many of their leaders. This frames 17 main portraits depicting revolutionary fighters from around the world whose works have been published by Pathfinder.

"Pathfinder makes available the views of political and working-class figures whose voices would not otherwise be heard," said Steve Clark, Pathfinder editorial director, at the press conference. "We are proud that many of those whose works we publish are portrayed in prominent portraits on the mural — Nelson Mandela, Che Guevara, Malcolm X, Rosa Luxemburg, Fidel Castro, Karl Marx, Eugene Debs, Farrell Dobbs, Maurice Bishop, and others."

Clark cited recently published titles such as *Malcolm X Talks to Young People*, *U.S. Hands Off the Mideast! Cuba Speaks Out at the United Nations*, and *The Eastern Airlines Strike: Accomplishments of the Rank-and-File Machinists* as examples of the books Pathfinder publishes so that views not otherwise heard can be read and studied.

"The Pathfinder Mural, too," Clark said, "helps redress the way the dominant cultural, educational, and political institutions try to muzzle important figures from our history." The mural, he said, "gives a broad public the opportunity to view, become curious about and then learn about, literally hundreds of leaders of the workers' movement, anticolonial and national liberation struggles, battles against racism and the oppression of women, and other social and political struggles."

Attorney Edward Copeland also addressed the press conference. "Such vandalism," said Copeland, "is truly reprehensible and we have urged the local authorities to investigate this and to pursue this to the fullest extent of the law. It is an attempt to intimidate not only the people who painted this mural but other people who want to freely discuss these things in an open way."

"The message of that red blot on that mural is really trying to tell people that 'you do that at some risk.' The people here with their messages of support," he said, "are saying we reject that and society rejects that as well."

Phyllis Yampolsky, an artist whose work on the mural was damaged during the previous vandal attack; artist Robert Coane, who painted several portraits on the mural; and Luis Miranda from Casa de las Américas, an organization that carries out activities in solidarity with the people of Cuba, also spoke at the press conference.

The message that Mayor David Dinkins sent to the Friends of the Pathfinder Mural condemned "this act of vandalism and any other act that impinges upon the freedoms we cherish so dearly," and promised that, "every effort will be made by the New York City Police Department to identify and apprehend those responsible."

Farber urged that protest messages be sent to the city authorities until action is taken. She also made an "urgent appeal for funds to aid in the restoration of the mural."

"With each attack of this kind, more and more people step forward to defend the Pathfinder Mural," said Farber. "Your support will help protect it for years to come."

Protest letters should be sent to: Mayor David Dinkins, City Hall, New York, N.Y. 10007. Fax (212) 791-9628. Copies and funds should be sent to Friends of the Pathfinder Mural, 191 7th Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10011.

Canadian government imposes wage controls

BY KATY LEROUGETEL

MONTREAL — Unveiling the government's new budget February 26, Canadian Finance Minister Michael Wilson announced wage controls on all federal employees will be instituted this year.

"The government will continue to bargain with its employees," the budget plan claims, but "will at all times be cognizant of its bottom line as dictated by the seriousness of the federal fiscal situation."

The government plan calls for a wage freeze this year. Threatening the unions, it said that with each 1 percent wage increase 2,000 jobs would be eliminated. Wages hikes of up to 3 percent will be allowed in each of the following three years. According to the plan any increase above that amount will result in layoffs.

Ottawa "will not hesitate" to enact laws

forcing union members who strike for higher pay back to work, Wilson said in his statement.

Treasury Board President Filles Loisele met with officials of several public sector unions the day after Wilson's announcement. According to Carmel Kasper, acting president of the 25,000-member Professional Institute of the Public Service of Canada, Loisele said the wage freeze will apply to the entire public service work force of 215,000 people beginning April 1.

Speaking to a March 5 joint meeting of the prestigious businessmen's Canadian Club of Toronto and the Empire Club of Canada, Wilson urged executives to follow the government's lead by instituting similar measures in private industry.

"The competitive position of Canadian industry will improve as workers adjust to lower wage settlements," he said.

New from Pathfinder:

The Eastern Airlines Strike Accomplishments of the rank-and-file Machinists and gains for the labor movement.

By Ernie Mailhot, Judy Stranahan, and Jack Barnes

The story of the 22-month strike against Eastern Airlines by members of the International Association of Machinists that prevented notorious union-buster Frank Lorenzo from running a profitable nonunion airline.

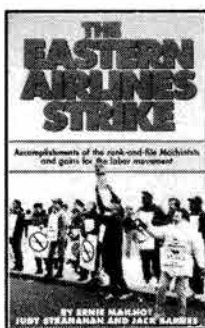
The book's three chapters explain how the rank-and-file fighters utilized union power to help bring down Lorenzo and defeat the goals of Eastern's management. The book presents the broader political context in which the strike took place and the current state of the labor movement.

The opening chapter by Ernie Mailhot, who was a rank-and-file leader of the strike in New York, provides a summary of the strikers' determined fight to stay out "one day longer than Eastern."

91 pp., photos. \$8.95

Bulk discounts available to unions and other organizations: bundles of 5 or more, 33% off (US \$6.00 each); 10 or more, 50% off (US \$4.50 each)

Available from the Pathfinder bookstore nearest you or from Pathfinder, 410 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014. Please add \$1 per book for shipping and handling.



Washington enforces blockade of Iraq

Continued from front page

followed by the tanks, to the U.S. positions. They were allowed to return, minus one rifle, after being lectured by a U.S. colonel.

"I think the point of it was to rattle their chain a little bit and let them know we're still the biggest kid on the block," said Lt. John Bartlett.

In an attempt to further weaken and divide the Iraqi army, the U.S. military command began taking more Iraqi soldiers prisoners March 20. U.S. units had been under orders since the implementation of the cease-fire to stop taking prisoners.

According to the *Washington Post*, hundreds of armored vehicles and supply trucks have been moving north from Kuwait in recent days to reinforce U.S. positions in Iraq.

Allied forces still occupy more than 25,000 square miles of southern Iraq, between 15 percent and 20 percent of the country.

White House: We're not guilty

U.S. military planes continue to patrol the skies of Iraq. Abdul Amir Anbari, Iraqi ambassador to the United Nations, charged that the U.S. warplanes have formed a "continual air umbrella" since the cease-fire. "One hundred formations, including a group of 192 aircraft," flew over Baghdad March 16, he stated.

While some U.S. troops have returned home, other units are being sent to the Gulf as replacements. There are more than 440,000 U.S. soldiers in the Arab-Persian Gulf.

Combined with the military pressure, Washington and its allies in London want to continue the economic embargo on Iraq. A recently released United Nations report says that conditions in Iraq are now "near-apocalyptic" because of the damage from the war and the blockade. (See article on page 7.)

"You will not find America feeling guilty," said White House spokesperson Marlin Fitzwater when asked to comment about the report.

In callous disregard for the lives of the Iraqi people, the U.S. and British governments want to impose new demands on Iraq before agreeing to a permanent cease-fire, as an additional lever to pressure Baghdad.

Among Washington and London's conditions are:

- recognition of the 1963 border between Kuwait and Iraq. This would leave all terri-

tory contested in an ongoing border dispute in Kuwaiti hands.

- a ban on all sales of military equipment to Iraq.
- agreement by Iraq to accept the destruction or removal of all of its ballistic missile systems.
- payment of reparations, including a pledge of a percentage of Iraq's future earnings from oil exports.
- the formation of a three-mile-wide zone in Iraq along the border with Kuwait for the deployment of United Nations observers.
- the right of the United States or other permanent members of the UN Security Council to veto the import of goods into Iraq, along with the continuance of some economic sanctions.

Washington hopes to get the UN Security Council to adopt a resolution backing these stringent measures to go along with the U.S. war drive, as it has until now.

The stepped up pressure by the U.S. government comes at a time when the Iraqi regime is facing big challenges from uprisings in the north and south of the country.

Rebels based in southern Iraq, which is predominantly made up of Shiite Muslims, claimed they captured several towns, including Hillah, 60 miles south of Baghdad.

A March 14 report from the Iranian News Agency said that Radio Voice of Revolutionary Iraq, which broadcasts from Basra, stated that 70 percent of Basra province was in the hands of the rebels.

According to a report March 20 in the *Washington Post*, Iraqi government troops appear to be gaining the upper hand in the south. The Associated Press wire service said some estimates of deaths due to fighting in the southern city of Basra approach 5,000.

Iraqi officials took reporters to the town of Karbala, which it recently retook from the rebels, 55 miles south of Baghdad.

Kurds claim sweeping victories

Kurdish rebels in northern Iraq claimed sweeping victories. Jala Talabani, a leader of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, said from Syria, that rebels controlled most of the Kurdish areas, including the cities of Sulaymaniyah, Irbil, and Kirkuk, the fourth largest in the country. The area lies near the Turkish border.

Some 20-30 million Kurds live in an area known as Kurdistan, spread out among Turkey, Iraq, Iran, Syria, and the Soviet Union. As many as 5 million live in Iraq. The Kurds, who have never had their own state, have

been repressed and denied their rights by all five governments.

Kurdish soldiers in the Iraqi army have reportedly joined the Kurdish rebellion. Talabani told the *Times* that his group, along with representatives of five other Iraqi opposition groups, was planning to set up a national salvation committee in the Kurdish areas now under rebel control.

Bayan Jabbar, head of the Tehran-based Supreme Council for Islamic Revolution in Iraq, said the councils were the "first stage of our new government." But, he added, a new government could not be formed until most of the rest of Iraq was under opposition control.

According to Lamis Andoni, a reporter for the *Christian Science Monitor* in Baghdad, the Iraqi capital has not seen rebellions. The Iraqi government, she reported, has collected hundreds of thousands of arms, mostly machine guns, which were distributed to residents there during the war.

Iran 'sympathizes' with rebels

Charging the Iranian government with backing the rebellions, Saadi Mehdi Saleh, speaker of the Iraqi parliament, said Iran had "dispatched groups of saboteurs" to militarily aid the opposition groups.

Iran's ambassador to the United Nations, Kamal Kharazmi, denied the charges, but added that Iran "sympathizes with the people of Iraq."

The March 19 *New York Newsday* carried a report on a statement by Iranian leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. "Saddam cannot remain in power for long and the continuation of his rule is impossible because of the arms which have fallen into the hands of the people," Khamenei said. "We hope that an Islamic and truly popular government based on the wishes of the



innocent people of Iraq will come to power."

Referring to the rebellions, General Powell said: "I think it will go on for a while, and it may be some time before we can tell who has the upper hand in it. Meanwhile, as long as these insurrections continue, it will continue to weaken his [Hussein's] hold on power and weaken the regime over time."

"Once these sorts of forces become unleashed they are not simple to put back in the bottle," Powell said, "particularly when you no longer have the kind of cohesive military forces you once had."

"A new set of problems could be introduced if Iraq suddenly broke up into a number of different countries or got Lebanonized," Powell stated.

Washington wants to see the Hussein regime replaced, but with a strong government that is subservient to U.S. interests.

Hussein must go, the U.S. general said. But "how that comes about, I don't know."

An unnamed U.S. official quoted in the March 21 *New York Times* stated bluntly, "I think there's enough pressure on him right now that the possibility of a military coup or assassination is increasing."

Crisis in Kuwait

While the U.S. government pursues its goals in Iraq, it faces a deepening crisis in Kuwait.

The 22-member Kuwaiti cabinet resigned on March 20. "Speaking frankly, I cannot say that our performance was up to expectations," said Planning Minister Suleiman al-Mutawa.

Three weeks after the expulsion of Iraqi troops, the Kuwaiti government had not restored basic services, including electricity, water, and regular food supplies. Government ministers, however, have obtained generators for their homes.

In the face of rising criticism, the outgoing Ministry of Information's last act was to close down the daily newspaper *February 26*, which charged the government with having "little regard for the suffering of those who had stayed behind" during the Iraqi occupation.

Torture and abuse of human rights continue in Kuwait. According to a Middle East Watch report, 2,000 Palestinians and other residents, including citizens of Sudan, Somalia, and Algeria, have been detained since the end of the war.

"There has been a pattern of indiscriminate roundups," said the group's executive director, Andrew Whitley. "Perhaps the majority" had been mistreated. This includes using lighted cigarettes to inflict burns, cutting names or slogans into the flesh of detainees, dripping hot candle wax on them, and shoving bottles into rectums, he said.

The Kuwaiti government admits to holding about 600 Iraqi and Palestinian prisoners. A government prosecutor said March 19 that most of the prisoners will be hanged for alleged war crimes.

U.S. gov't demand for war pledges increases tensions with imperialists in Germany, Japan

Continued from front page

gel is planning a trip to Washington soon and will be requesting a full accounting of the war's costs.

"We also have to find out what the final cost will be, which is a legitimate question. I'm sure other governments are equally interested in knowing," an aid to German Chancellor Helmut Kohl said. Germany owes \$1.9 billion on its pledge.

Ruling class forces in Germany and Japan are also pressing to build up and begin to use their military forces in a limited way around the world. The rulers of both countries see their inability to deploy fighting forces in the Gulf as a crippling weakness that limits the extent to which they can act as world imperialist powers.

Ruling class forces in both countries know that economic power alone is insufficient to replace U.S. imperialism as the dominant world power. The fact that Washington could use its military power in the Mideast to the detriment of German and Japanese imperialism has only highlighted this fact for Bonn and Tokyo. They see this situation as intolerable and are seeking to change it.

Germany and Japan, the losers in World War II, had constitutions imposed upon them by the allied victors that placed limitations on the size and deployment of their military forces. There is also significant opposition in both countries to deploying military forces abroad. Protests against joining in the war on Iraq occurred in Japan and Germany. But Bonn and Tokyo are planning to try and break through these obstacles.

Germany's Kohl has said, "Germany must

do more in the future to do its fair share for international solidarity." Kohl is looking toward the passage of a constitutional amendment that will allow the German rulers greater freedom to use their military abroad. It appears likely that he will be able to make some changes. The Social Democrats have already stated that they would support the changes, if they are limited to German forces taking part in UN "peace-keeping forces."

To get around opposition among the German people to such steps, German Defense Minister Gerhard Stoltenberg said his goal is to create a rapid deployment force made up of drafted soldiers who voluntarily agree to serve abroad.

Germany's army is made up of draftees who have the right to refuse to serve in a military conflict — as several did when the government sent 600 troops to Turkey's border as part of NATO forces during the Gulf war.

In Japan the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) is proposing similar changes. A new bill is being drafted that will authorize Japanese military personnel to participate in UN peacekeeping operations. An earlier bill that would have permitted Japan's Self-Defense Force (SDF) to be sent to the Gulf was withdrawn because of popular opposition. To gain support for the new measure LDP politicians are proposing that only retired SDF personnel and reservists be part of the new military outfit.

Indonesian President Suharto has spoken in favor of Japan having the right to decide whether or not to send troops overseas on UN peacekeeping missions. This is important

because Indonesia is now the first ASEAN nation to give the go ahead to Japan expanding its military role. ASEAN stands for Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), which include Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, and Thailand. Japanese officials have cited opposition among these countries as a major reason why they had not beefed up their military in the past. The Japanese government is also pursuing discussions with Singapore and Malaysia.

The Japanese rulers are bitter over the fact that they will not get lucrative contracts for the rebuilding of Kuwait because they did not have troops that were part of the fighting. Many have also expressed irritation over the fact that they are dependant on U.S. military power and must subordinate their own foreign policy interests to those of Washington. Some Japanese have referred to their position as *shiruma ni noru* which literally means riding the hindquarters of the horse or following blindly.

"For the past 45 years, we had some inferiority complex because international decisions were made based on military power, and the U.S. and the Soviet Union were the great military powers," said Koichi Kato, a senior LDP member to the *Wall Street Journal*. "Because we aren't a military power, we felt we weren't an independent, well-matured country. When the U.S. and Soviets agreed to end the Cold War, we were very happy that the time of economics has come. But with Saddam Hussein, the military element has resurged. That is quite an unhappy phenomenon for world stability and for Japan."

'Imminent catastrophe' in Iraq

Text of UN report details devastation of U.S.-led war

BY SELVA NEBBIA
AND PETER THIERJUNG

UNITED NATIONS — A United Nations report released March 20 describes "near-apocalyptic" conditions in Iraq as a result of the U.S.-led war against the people of that country. The UN Security Council, however, has not lifted the murderous embargo it imposed on Iraq August 6.

On March 22 a committee set up to oversee the implementation of the embargo, authorized under Security Council Resolution 661 (1990), met to discuss the report. The committee decided that "all flights which carry only foodstuffs or supplies intended strictly for medical purposes" have the "general approval" of the committee if no member of the Security Council objects to such shipments. The committee is made up of the 15 members of the council.

The report's revelation of the scope of the devastation in Iraq comes amidst moves by Washington to extend the use of its occupation army and complete control of Iraqi airspace to pressure the regime in Baghdad. U.S. officials announced March 24 that a headquarters of the U.S. Central Command would be set up in the Arab-Persian Gulf state of Bahrain and that U.S. troops would remain in the region for months to come.

The threatening moves by Washington are accompanied by statements by U.S. Gen. Colin Powell, head of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, calling for the ouster of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

Case for lifting sanctions

The report on conditions in Iraq, by UN Under-Secretary-General Martti Ahtisaari, makes a clear and dramatic case for the lifting of sanctions. It stresses that without fuel, spare parts, and other necessities, the Iraqi people are heading for an "imminent catastrophe."

"Humanitarian relief — whether we talk about food, medicines, vaccines, plant seeds, chemicals, or purified water — is most urgently needed," Ahtisaari said at a March 22 press conference here. "But without fuel, and power to drive vehicles, pumps, generators, refrigerated vans, sewage disposal works, harvesting machines, all the kinds of mechanisms that an advanced industrial society depends upon, the relief effort will not meet the urgent needs that now exist."

Ahtisaari headed a task force mandated by the United Nations to assess the humanitarian needs in Iraq and Kuwait. The task force was in Iraq from March 10 to March 17. A major section of its report is reprinted here.

Asked by a reporter to describe the situation in Iraq, Ahtisaari said it was "very difficult to describe the paralysis of the society because the whole economic infrastructure has been destroyed. But it's a little bit like a human being, where you are alive but the nervous system doesn't function."

UN Resolution 661 was adopted August 6, four days after Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's army invaded and occupied Kuwait. The resolution bans all trade with Iraq and was adopted by a vote of 13-0-2, with Cuba and Yemen abstaining. The embargo also prohibits all states from making available to the government of Iraq, or to any commercial enterprise in Iraq, any financial aid or other resources.

Responding to questions by reporters here March 22, Cuba's permanent representative to the United Nations, Ricardo Alarcón, said, "From the beginning we opposed the sanctions because we did not accept that the withholding of medical supplies should be part of any international decision."

"We have been completely opposed to the inclusion of medicines and foodstuffs all along," Alarcón said.

"There is a very serious situation being faced by the people of Iraq," he continued. "And the only conclusion is there in the report: that sanctions should be lifted immediately."

"I am sure that there will be strong opposition to the Security Council even considering that possibility," the Cuban representative added.

Abdalla Saleh al-Ashtal, the UN representative of Yemen, said the steps taken by the sanctions committee were "too little, too late."

"Given the destruction that was wrought on the Iraqi civilian population and the infrastructure," said the Yemeni representative, "what the council needs to do at this time is



A young Iraqi sells produce in front of shops destroyed by U.S. and allied bombing raids. U.S.-led forces flew 109,876 sorties and dropped 88,500 tons of bombs on Iraq.

simply lift the sanctions altogether."

The devastating situation faced today by the people of Iraq is the result of a seven-month war led by Washington to establish a regime in Iraq subservient to U.S. imperialism: a virtual protectorate that can help safeguard imperialist interests in the region. In reality, the start of the embargo and blockade in August marked the beginning of the war. The six-week air war begun in January and the subsequent invasion of Iraq in February were the turning points in the aggression against the Iraqi people.

From the very beginning the aim of the war was to strangle the country economically and to destroy anything that could help sustain the Iraqi army: food, medicine, transportation, communication centers, bridges, and warehouses. Ahtisaari's report documents the extent to which this bombing of the total support mechanism for supplying the army affected the country as a whole.

While not planning or organizing massive bombing of civilians, the total war waged by Washington and its allies nevertheless devastated the population.

Washington not 'feeling guilty'

"You will not find America feeling guilty," said White House spokesman Marlin Fitzwater, responding to the bleak picture described by the UN task force.

"We fought the war decisively, we fought it well, and we fought it as discriminately as we could," said Fitzwater.

From January 17 to February 27, U.S. and allied forces flew 109,876 sorties against Iraq, dropping 88,500 tons of bombs. In just 42 days, the total tonnage amounted to 50 percent more than was dropped during 10 years of the Vietnam War.

Despite Pentagon claims that new, advanced technology made it possible to minimize casualties, some U.S. military officials have been forced to admit that 70 percent of the

bombs missed their targets.

Thousands of civilians were killed in the bombing. Although no official figure on the extent of the civilian carnage is available, reports by the Red Crescent, the Iraqi equivalent of the Red Cross, said that 7,000 civilians were killed in the first 25 days of the bombing. One doctor estimated that 1,000 died in Basra, Iraq's second largest city, during the war.

A U.S. government official admitted that between 100,000 and 200,000 Iraqi soldiers were killed. The Pentagon refuses to provide an official count. Allied ground forces have used bulldozers to bury thousands of Iraqi dead in trenches.

'Turkey shoot'

One example of the character and extent of the massacre was the massive slaughter of fleeing Iraqi troops and others on two highways leading north out of Kuwait. During what was described by a returning U.S. pilot as a "turkey shoot," U.S. planes first bombed the front and back of the convoys of vehicles traveling north, trapping thousands inside their trucks, cars, and vans. Unable to move, vehicles full of soldiers and others were trapped — 20 abreast, four miles in length — and picked off by U.S. and British bombers. U.S. Marine, Navy, and Air Force planes all joined in.

On March 3, a temporary cease-fire was agreed to by the Iraqi regime and Washington. The military negotiations between allied and Iraqi officers were held in secret without the presence of any UN representatives.

The day before, the Security Council had approved Resolution 686. Initiated by Washington, it placed onerous demands on the defeated Baghdad regime, stating it must rescind its annexation of Kuwait, accept liability for damage caused during the war, cease all hostilities toward member states, and provide information to allied forces about the whereabouts of unexploded mines and remaining weaponry.

The Cuban government, the only council member casting a vote against the resolution, presented a number of amendments aimed at lifting the embargo and bringing about a cease-fire. All were defeated.

Washington is now working on a resolution that would put further demands on the Baghdad government as preconditions for a permanent cease-fire between the allied forces and Iraq.

Ahtisaari's report gives ample evidence of the effects of the economic war against the Iraqi people sanctioned by Resolution 661 prior to the air war and invasion. For example, the report explains that before the embargo, Iraq was importing 70 percent of its food needs. Now the flow of food into the country has been reduced to a "trickle."

Food rationing was introduced as early as September 1990, the report says, when the "Ministry of Trade's monthly allocation to the population of staple food items fell from 343,000 tons ... to 182,000 tons." It "was further reduced to 135,000 tons in January 1991 (39 percent of the pre-

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Continued from previous page
sanctions level)," explains the report.

In February the World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) released the first UN report detailing the disaster in Iraq. But it was not until March 3 that Washington — under pressure from the governments of Cuba, Ecuador, India, Yemen, and Zimbabwe in the Security Council — first agreed to an exemption on some humanitarian and food aid.

Record of UN debate

In the midst of Washington's war drive against the people of Iraq, Pathfinder published a book entitled *U.S. Hands Off the Mideast! Cuba Speaks Out at the United Nations*. It documents the Security Council debates and discussions, including speeches outlining Cuba's position on the war moves sanctioned by that body. In the November 9 introduction to the book, Mary-Alice Waters explains:

"Every resolution initiated by the U.S. government to justify its war moves has been unanimously backed by the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council: Britain, China, France, and the Soviet Union, as well as the United States.

"The government of Cuba, however, now serving a two-year term on the Security Council, has been the sole voice in the United Nations to speak out clearly and consistently against the administration's war preparations, which are backed by the bipartisan Democratic and Republican coalition in Congress."

The excerpts from the UN report reprinted here show what imperialism will do through its wars against working people. Rather than the end of a war, the assault on Iraq marks a prewar period in which the conflicts and contradictions in the world have accelerated.

Learning the truth about what the war, including the embargo, did to working people in Iraq is essential for workers, farmers, and youth the world over in building opposition to imperialism and its wars.

To fathom the destruction exposed by the UN report, comparisons are useful. In square miles, Iraq is slightly larger than the state of California. Its population of 18.8 million is greater than that of New York State.

Baghdad, Iraq's capital with 5 million residents, used to be a relatively modern urban center compared with other semicolonial countries. Income from oil resources fostered the country's development and allowed the government to build up an infrastructure. Iraq had modern industry, several universities, six-lane superhighways, shopping centers, and modern government buildings and hotels.

Below the *International Socialist Review* reprints the main portion of the report, which covers the delegation's findings and recommendations. Subheads are by the *International Socialist Review*.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS IN REGARD TO IRAQ

A summary of the mission's findings and conclusions is set out below. It is based upon a number of internal working papers, technical annexes, visits to sites, and oral reports by mission specialists.

A book with the facts on Washington's war drive

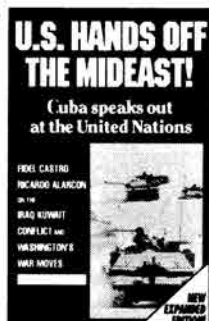
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Featured in the book are statements by Cuban Ambassador to the UN Ricardo Alarcón and President Fidel Castro that rebut the pretexts and arguments used by Washington to justify its aggression. Unionists, GIs, veterans, students, and workers involved in struggles against the employers' offensive at home can use this book to educate about the imperialist war drive.

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Civilians in Baghdad after bombing raid

A. General remarks

I and the members of my mission were fully conversant with media reports regarding the situation in Iraq and, of course, with the recent WHO-UNICEF report on water, sanitary, and health conditions in the Greater Baghdad area. It should, however, be said at once that nothing that we had seen or read had quite prepared us for the particular form of devastation which has now befallen the country.

The recent conflict has wrought near-apocalyptic results upon the economic infrastructure of what had been, until January 1991, a rather highly urbanized and mechanized society. Now, most means of modern life support have been destroyed or rendered tenuous. Iraq has, for some time to come, been relegated to a pre-industrial age, but with all the disabilities of post-industrial dependency on an intensive use of energy and technology.

My mandate was limited to assessing the need for urgent humanitarian assistance. It did not extend to the huge task of assessing the requirements for reconstructing Iraq's destroyed infrastructure, much less, to developmental matters. Accordingly, my report to you, in its several technical sections, seeks with as much exactitude as possible to convey the extent of needs in the primary areas of humanitarian concern: for safe water and sanitation, basic health and medical support; for food; for shelter; and for the logistical means to make such support actually available.

Underlying each analysis is the inexorable reality that, as a result of war, virtually all previously viable sources of fuel and power (apart from a limited number of mobile generators) and modern means of communication are now, essentially, defunct. The far-reaching implications of this energy and communications' vacuum as regards urgent humanitarian support are of crucial significance for the nature and effectiveness of the international response.

Full extent of calamity unknown

These conditions, together with recent civil unrest in some parts of the country, mean that the authorities are as yet scarcely able even to measure the dimensions of the calamity, much less respond to its consequences, because they cannot obtain full and accurate data. Additionally, there is much less than the minimum fuel required to provide the energy needed for movement or transportation, irrigation or generators for power to pump water and sewage.

For instance, emergency medical supplies can be moved to health centers only with extreme difficulty and, usually, major delay. Information regarding local needs is slow and sparse. Most employees are simply unable to come to work. Both the authorities and the trade unions estimate that approximately 90 percent of industrial workers have been reduced to inactivity and will be deprived of income as of the end of March. Government departments have at present only marginal attendance.

Prior to recent events, Iraq was importing about 70 percent of its food needs. Now, owing to the fuel shortage, the inability to import and the virtual breakdown of the distribution system, the flow of food through the private sector has been reduced to a trickle, with costs accelerating upwards. Many food prices are already beyond the purchasing reach of most Iraqi families. Agricultural production is highly mechanized, and much land depends on pumped-water irrigation.

Should the main harvest in June 1991 be seriously affected by a lack of energy to drive machines and pump water, then an already grave situation will be further aggravated. As shown below, prospects for the 1992 harvest could, for combined reasons, be in at least as much jeopardy. Having regard to the nature of Iraq's society and economy,

the energy vacuum is an omnipresent obstacle to the success of even a short-term, massive effort to maintain life-sustaining conditions in each area of humanitarian need.

B. Food and agriculture

Mission members held working sessions with counterparts from the relevant ministries, visited social centers where various vulnerable groups are cared for, agricultural production areas, a seed production center, a veterinary health center and a dairy production unit. The mission noted that Iraq has been heavily dependent on food imports which have amounted to at least 70 percent of consumption needs. Seed was also imported.

Sanctions decided upon by the Security Council had already adversely affected the country's ability to feed its people. New measures relating to rationing and enhanced production were introduced in September 1990. These were, however, in turn, negatively affected by the hostilities which impacted upon most areas of agricultural production and distribution.

At critically low levels

Food is currently made available to the population both through government allocation and rations, and through the market. The Ministry of Trade's monthly allocation to the population of staple food items fell from 343,000 tons in September 1990 to 182,000 tons, when rationing was introduced, and was further reduced to 135,000 tons in January 1991 (39 percent of the presanctions level).

While the mission was unable to gauge the precise quantities still held in government warehouses, all evidence indicates that flour is now at a critically low level, and that supplies of sugar, rice, tea, vegetable oil, powdered milk, and pulses are currently at critically low levels or have been exhausted. Distribution of powdered milk, for instance, is now reserved exclusively for sick children on medical prescription.

Livestock farming has been seriously affected by sanctions because many feed products were imported. The sole laboratory producing veterinary vaccines was destroyed during the conflict, as inspected by the mission. The authorities are no longer able to support livestock farmers in the combat of disease, as all stocks of vaccine were stated to have been destroyed in the same sequence of bombardments on this center, which was an FAO regional project.

The country has had a particular dependence upon foreign vegetable seeds, and the mission was able to inspect destroyed seed warehouses. The relevant agricultural authorities informed the mission that all stocks of potatoes and vegetable seeds had been exhausted. Next season's planting will be jeopardized if seeds are not provided before October 1991.

Grain harvest compromised

This year's grain harvest in June is seriously compromised for a number of reasons, including failure of irrigation-drainage (no power for pumps, lack of spare parts); lack of pesticides and fertilizers (previously imported); and lack of fuel and spare parts for the highly-mechanized and fuel-dependent harvesting machines. Should this harvest fail, or be far below average, as is very likely barring a rapid change in the situation, widespread starvation conditions become a real possibility.

The official program for the support of socially dependent groups of the population (the elderly, disabled, mothers and children, hospital patients, orphans, refugees, etc.) is affected by the overall grave deficiencies in the food situation.

The mission had the opportunity to conduct independent research relating to household costs and living standards in Baghdad. Such standards have declined rapidly in the last months, while food and fuel prices have climbed dramatically. Price increases in the August to January period reflected shortages of supply, but since January there has been a further acceleration of price increases reflecting both supply shortages and the breakdown of the transport system.

Interviews with private wholesale food distributors revealed that their stocks are near depletion and they no longer have an organized private transport capacity, owing to fuel shortages. The government-initiated rationing system was designed to provide families with a fraction of their basic necessities at prices comparable to those prevailing before August. The system allows families either 5 kilograms per person, per month, of flour or 3 loaves of baked bread; 10 kilograms per family, per month, of liquid cooking gas; 1 bar of soap per person, per month, etc.

Full rations not available

However, independent surveys conducted by the mission in several diverse areas of Baghdad showed that many families cannot draw their full rations, since the distribution centers are often depleted and they have great difficulty in traveling to other centers. The quality of food distributed has itself deteriorated to the point of causing health problems. Most families also reported that they could not meet their needs through the private markets. Despite official price controls, the independent market surveys conducted by the mission showed hyperinflation since August.

The price of most basic necessities has increased by 1,000

percent or more. For example, flour is now 5-6 dinars per kilogram (and seemingly still rising); rice has risen to 6 dinars per kilogram; sugar to 5 dinars [1dinar= US\$3.50] per kilogram; lentils to 4 dinars per kilogram; and whole milk to 10 dinars.

In contrast to this hyperinflation, many incomes have collapsed. Many employees cannot draw salaries, the banking system has in large measure closed down and withdrawals are limited to 100 dinars per month. The minimum monthly wage was 54 dinars and the average monthly salary of a civil servant was 70 dinars. In short, most families lack access to adequate rations or the purchasing power to meet normal minimal standards.

Lift sanctions on food and supplies

The mission recommends that, in these circumstances of present severe hardship and in view of the bleak prognosis, sanctions in respect of food supplies should be immediately removed, as should those relating to the import of agricultural equipment and supplies. The urgent supply of basic commodities to safeguard vulnerable groups is strongly recommended, and the provision of major quantities of the following staples for the general population: milk, wheat flour, rice, sugar, vegetable oil, and tea. These are required to meet minimum general requirements until the next harvest.

Safeguarding the harvest means the urgent importation of fertilizers, pesticides, spare parts, veterinary drugs, agricultural machinery, and equipment, etc. The mission was able to qualify many of these needs. The disappearance of vegetables from the country's markets also appears likely by the summer, and seed importation is crucial.

The mission observes that, without a restoration of energy supplies to the agricultural production and distribution sectors, implementation of many of the above recommendations would be to little effect. Drastic international measures across the whole agricultural spectrum are most urgent.

C. Water, sanitation, and health

As regards water, prior to the crisis Baghdad received about 450 litres per person supplied by seven treatment stations purifying water from the Tigris river. The rest of the country had about 200-250 litres per person per day, purified and supplied by 238 central water-treatment stations and 1,134 smaller water projects. All stations operated on electric power; about 75 percent had standby diesel-powered generators. Sewage was treated to an acceptable standard before being returned to the rivers.

With the destruction of power plants, oil refineries, main oil storage facilities, and water-related chemical plants, all electrically operated installations have ceased to function. Diesel-operated generators were reduced to operating on a limited basis, their functioning affected by lack of fuel, lack of maintenance, lack of spare parts, and non-attendance of workers.

The supply of water in Baghdad dropped to less than 10 litres per day but has now recovered to approximately 30-40 litres in about 70 percent of the area (less than 10 percent of the overall previous use). Standby generating capacity is out of order in several pumping stations and cessation of supplies will therefore ensue if current machinery goes out of order for any reason (spare parts are not available owing to sanctions).

As regards the quality of water in Baghdad, untreated sewage has now to be dumped directly into the river — which is the source of the water supply — and all drinking-water plants there and throughout the rest of the country are using river water with high sewage contamination. Recently, the water authority has begun to be able to improve the quality of drinking water by adding more of the remaining stock of alum and chlorine after assurances from UNICEF and ICRC [International Committee of the Red Cross] that emergency aid would be provided.

Chemical tests are now being conducted at the stations but no bacteriological testing and control is possible because of the lack of electricity necessary for the functioning of laboratories, the shortage of necessary chemicals and reagents and the lack of fuel for the collection of samples. No chlorine tests are being conducted because of the lack of fuel for sampling. While the water authority has warned that water must be boiled, there is little fuel to do this, and what exists is diminishing. Cool winter conditions have prevailed until recently.

All modern communication destroyed

Only limited information is available to authorities regarding the situation in the remainder of the country because all modern communications systems have been destroyed and information is now transmitted and received (in this sector as in all others) by person-to-person contact. In those areas where there are no generators, or generators have broken down, or the fuel supply is exhausted, the population draws its water directly from polluted rivers and trenches. This is widely apparent in rural areas, where women and children can be seen washing and filling water receptacles.

The quantity and quality of water produced by treatment centers is very variable and in many locations there are no chemicals available for purification. No quality control — chlorine testing, chemical testing, or bacteri-

ological testing — is being conducted.

The mission identified the various problems mentioned above: heavy sewage-pollution of water intakes; absence or acute shortage of water-treatment chemicals, especially aluminium sulphate (alum) and chlorine; lack of power to operate equipment; lack or shortage of diesel to run generators; inability to repair generators because of lack of spare parts; in some instances a total absence of generators; the destruction of some stations; absence of water-testing; lack of a health surveillance system in respect of communicable, and, especially, water-borne diseases.

A further major problem, now imminent, is the climate. Iraq has long and extremely hot summers, the temperature often reaching 50 degrees Celsius [122 degrees Fahrenheit]. This has two main implications: (a) the quantity of water must be increased, and a minimum target of 50 litres per person per day has to be attained (this entails a gross output of 65 litres per person at the source); and (b) the heat will accelerate the incubation of bacteria, and thus the health risks ascribable to the water quality (already at an unacceptable level) will be further exacerbated — especially viewed in the overall sanitary circumstances which have already led to a fourfold increase in diarrheal disease incidence among children under five years of age, and the impact of this on their precarious nutritional status.

Rising temperatures make crisis worse

As regards sanitation, the two main concerns relate to garbage disposal and sewage treatment. In both cases, rapidly rising temperatures will soon accentuate an existing crisis. Heaps of garbage are spread in the urban areas and collection is poor to non-existent. The work of collection vehicles is hampered by lack of fuel, lack of maintenance, and spare parts and lack of labour, because workers are unable to come to work.

Incinerators are in general not working, for these same reasons, and for lack of electric power. Insecticides, much needed as the weather becomes more torrid, are virtually out of stock because of sanctions and a lack of chemical supplies.

As previously stated, Iraqi rivers are heavily polluted by raw sewage, and water levels are unusually low. All sewage treatment and pumping plants have been brought to a virtual standstill by the lack of power supply and the lack of spare parts. Pools of sewage lie in the streets and villages. Health hazards will build in the weeks to come.

As regards health conditions, the mission reviewed the situation since the special joint WHO-UNICEF mission in February 1991. It found that the recommendations made in that report (S/22328), subsequently approved by the Security Council Committee established by resolution 661 (1990) concerning the situation between Iraq and Kuwait, were well-founded.

Health conditions precarious

The mission also identified any further immediate health problems that needed to be addressed over the next three to six months. It also identified constraints that hamper the implementation of the already-agreed recommendations of the joint mission. It found that health conditions in Baghdad and throughout the country remain precarious. A major factor is the water and sanitation situation described above.

Additionally, the total lack of telephone communication



Charred vehicles of retreating Iraqi troops on highway to Baghdad after massive U.S. bombing.

and drastically reduced transport capability pose other problems to the health system since basic information on communicable diseases cannot be collected and disseminated, and essential drugs, vaccines, and medical supplies cannot be distributed efficiently to the country. Mission health experts therefore focused especially on control and prevention of communicable diseases; water quality control; and logistics support for an effective distribution system from Baghdad to outlying regions of vaccines, drugs, and medical supplies, as well as infant formula.

There is an urgent need to establish a national surveillance and reporting capacity for communicable diseases. This would require the establishment of sentinel sites that can test for the major communicable diseases, as well as the capacity to collate and analyse resulting data on a national scale in a timely manner. Communications, functional laboratories, including necessary chemicals and reagents, and transport and power resources are essential to provide for this emergency humanitarian need. The question of water quality control has already been described.

A catastrophe at any time

The fourfold increase in incidence of diarrheal diseases amongst young children reported by the WHO-UNICEF mission has been reconfirmed by findings recently obtained in 11 sentinel sites in Baghdad. The water and sanitation situation contributes to this problem which must be expected to increase as the summer approaches. The mission concluded that a catastrophe could be faced at any time if conditions do not change. It assessed the detailed requirements for water quality control. As for logistics, this sector is at present especially affected by the same problems that exist in the rest of society.

The mission's recommendations regarding water, sanitation, and health are being continued on next page.

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Continued from previous page

tion and health, on an urgent humanitarian basis, are as follows:

a) For water, needs have to be calculated in such a way as to permit a minimum quantity of safe water through the hot season from April to September. Assistance, similar to that approved earlier, should be provided to cities outside Baghdad, including the necessary quantities of fuel for generators and transport; lubricants for engines; aluminium sulphate; chlorine; generators for water stations; skid-mounted river water treatment units; chemical dosing pumps; gas chlorinators; pump sets; spare parts; collars for water pipes; and reagents for chemical tests;

(b) For sanitation needs, these include: fuel and spare parts for garbage collection trucks, as well as insecticides; fuel and spare parts for the sewage disposal system (all of which is mechanical and imported); and hoses for drawing water with tanker-trucks;

(c) As regards medical needs, the mission concluded that a number of items were essential to deal with urgent humanitarian needs and established requirements. They include the provision of essential drugs and vaccines, as approved earlier, on a more extended scale, chemicals and reagents, generators, battery-operated incubators, means of alternative communication, requirements for the reconstitution of the cold chain for vaccines, and some vehicles;

(d) Without fuel, power, and communications, the needed measures indicated above could, however, prove more or less ineffectual. Estimates of related fuel requirements have been made by the mission.

D. Refugees and other vulnerable groups

Conditions described above affect the whole population of Iraq and, most especially, low-income groups. The mission paid particular attention to the plight of especially vulnerable groups, whether Iraqi or non-Iraqi. Thus, it found that care for orphans, the elderly, and the handicapped had been in many instances disrupted, with residents of institutions having had to be moved and regrouped at various locations. It recommends the urgent implementation of a humanitarian program aimed at enabling some 25 orphanages and 71 other social welfare centers to resume their normal activities and at providing their beneficiaries with essential relief supplies, and specifies essential inputs for this purpose.

As regards the displaced and the homeless, the authorities themselves have not yet been able fully to assess the impact of the recent hostilities. They have, however, calculated that approximately 9,000 homes were destroyed or damaged beyond repair during the hostilities, of which 2,500 were in Baghdad and 1,900 were in Basra. This has created a new homeless potential total of 72,000 persons. Official help is now hampered by the conditions described throughout this report and, especially, a virtual halt in the production of local building materials and the impossibility to import. The input of essential materials should be permitted.

Uncertain fate of immigrant workers

The mission was unable, in the time available and having regard to the incomplete data in the hands of the authorities, to ascertain the number of foreign workers of Arab and other nationalities still resident in Iraq. It has been estimated that approximately 750,000 were still present in January 1991. It can at this stage be no more than a matter of surmise whether a number of those remaining may be in need of support to return to their countries of origin.

Some 64,000 Iranian nationals, protected under either the Fourth Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War of August 14, 1949, or the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, had previously resided in three camps in Iraq. There has been substantial dislocation of some of these persons. Others have indicated their desire for repatriation. Limited relief assistance is urgently needed for some of those who have been obliged to leave one of the camps.

Additionally, some 80,000 Palestinians are resident in Iraq, including a group of 35,000 considered as refugees benefiting from the protection of the Iraqi Government. It has been reported that several hundred Palestinians have recently come to Baghdad from Kuwait and are now in need of emergency assistance. Certain measures have been developed to provide urgent assistance to those most in need.

E. Logistics: transportation, communications, and energy

The mission examined transportation, communications, and energy facilities, as it increasingly emerged that adequate logistics and energy would be essential to support and make effective emergency humanitarian assistance.

As regards transportation, the fact that the country has been on a war footing almost continuously since 1980 has undermined its capacity. At present, Iraq's sole available surface transport link with the outside world is via Amman to Aqaba [in Jordan]. (It has been reported that a bridge has recently been destroyed on the Iskenderun-Mersin road to Iraq from Turkey; and the ports of Basra and Umm Qasr are currently out of use; nor has there for some years been any direct cargo traffic to Iraq via the Syrian Arab Republic.)

Internal transportation by road is now severely affected

by a lack of spare parts and tires and, above all, by a lack of fuel. Some internal railway capability still exists on the Baghdad-Mosul line. The mission was informed that a total of 83 road bridges had been destroyed and a number were inspected.

As regards communications, the mission was informed that all internal and external telephone systems had been destroyed, with the exception of a limited local exchange in one town. It had the opportunity to inspect a number of war-damaged or destroyed facilities and experienced for itself the situation in the Greater Baghdad and other urban areas. Communication in Iraq is now on a person-to-person basis, as mail services have also disintegrated.

Bombardment paralyzed energy supplies

The role of energy in Iraq is especially important because of the level of its urbanization (approximately 72 percent of the population lives in towns), its industrialization, and its prolonged, very hot, summers. Prewar energy consumption consisted of oil and refined products (85 percent), electricity (14.8 per cent) and other sources (0.2 percent). About 30 percent of electric power generation was hydro-power. Bombardment has paralysed oil and electricity sectors almost entirely. Power output and refineries' production is negligible and will not be resumed until the first repair phase is complete.

The limited and sporadic power supply in some residential areas and for health facilities is provided by mobile generators. There have, officially, been virtually no sales of gasoline to private users since February. The mission was told that the only petrol, oil, and lubricants (POL) products now available are heating oil (rationed to 60 litres per month, per family) and liquefied petroleum gas (LPG), which is rationed to one cylinder per month, per family. The authorities stated that stocks of these two products are close to exhaustion and that their distribution is expected to cease within the next 2-4 weeks.

Calamitous consequences

While work is under way to clear sites and assess damages, lack of communications and transport is retarding this activity. Initial inspections are said to show that necessary repairs to begin power generation and oil refining at minimal levels may take anywhere from 4 to 13 months. Minimal survival level to undertake humanitarian activities would require approximately 25 percent of prewar civilian domestic fuel consumption. Its absence, given the proximate onset of hot weather conditions, may have calamitous consequences for food, water supply, and for sanitation; and therefore for health conditions.

It seems inescapable that these fuel imports must take place urgently, and units and spare parts will also be required to enable Iraq to meet its own humanitarian needs as soon as possible. Under optimal circumstances it would be difficult or impossible for such needs to be provided from other sources given all the circumstances of that country's economy and social conditions, and bearing also in mind the limited bulk transportation possibilities that are likely to exist for the foreseeable future.

During my final meetings in Baghdad on March 16, I made reference to the need to be able to assess the effective utilization of all inputs that might in future be established under the responsibility of the United Nations. The Government assured the mission that it would accept a system of monitoring of imports and their utilization.

F. Observations

The account given above describes as accurately as the mission has been able, using all sources, including much independent observation, to ascertain the situation, which, within the time available and the travel limitations referred to earlier, was perceived to exist in regard to urgent humanitarian needs in Iraq during the week of 10-17 March.

I, together with all my colleagues, am convinced that there needs to be a major mobilization and movement of resources to deal with aspects of this deep crisis in the fields of agriculture and food, water, sanitation, and health. Yet the situation raises, in acute form, other questions. For it will be difficult, if not impossible, to remedy these immediate humanitarian needs without dealing with the underlying need for energy, on an equally urgent basis. The need for energy means, initially, emergency oil imports and the rapid patching up of a limited refining and electricity production capacity, with essential supplies from other countries.

Otherwise, food that is imported cannot be preserved and distributed; water cannot be purified; sewage cannot be pumped away and cleansed; crops cannot be irrigated; medicaments cannot be conveyed where they are required; needs cannot even be effectively assessed.

It is unmistakable that the Iraqi people may soon face a further imminent catastrophe, which could include epidemic and famine, if massive life-supporting needs are not rapidly met. The long summer, with its often 45 or even 50 degree temperatures [113-122 degrees Fahrenheit], is only weeks away. Time is short.

Brutal U.S. blockade of Iraq is unique in modern history

The following excerpt is taken from the article "Working-class campaign against the imperialist war drive" by Jack Barnes, which was published in the December 1990 issue of *International Socialist Review*. Barnes is the national secretary of the Socialist Workers Party. For information on how to obtain copies of the entire article, see the advertisement on page 9.

Alongside this ongoing imperialist military buildup, and the diplomatic maneuvers to give it cover, the economic blockade against Iraq has been reinforced. U.S. and allied war vessels continue to use armed might to prevent tankers and merchant ships from bringing imports into and transporting exports out of Iraqi ports.

It is easy to forget that this is the most effective embargo — in fact, the only real blockade — of a country in decades. Its scope, and the disparate economic and military power of the two sides involved, are unique in modern history. By any definition, it is an act of war.

It's sometimes said that Iraq is the third country since the founding of the UN in 1945 to be targeted by such a Security Council-sanctioned measure, the other two being Southern Rhodesia during the years of the white-minority regime and apartheid South Africa today. But the UN actions against these two racist regimes have involved only sanctions, not a blockade. They were openly cheated on by Washington itself. There were no mechanisms of enforcement whatsoever — let alone by massive naval, air, and ground forces of the mightiest imperialist power on earth!

We often speak of the "blockade" against Cuba. But there's not a naval or air blockade of Cuba either, although the brutal U.S.-orchestrated ban on trade and aid has had much more devastating economic and social consequences than the UN sanctions against the racist regimes in southern Africa. (There was a U.S. naval blockade of Cuba for a few days in October 1962, when Washington declared its intention to intercept and turn back Soviet ships transporting nuclear-armed missiles.)

Even during the Vietnam War, the U.S. government never sought to interdict Soviet, Chinese, or European ships bringing armaments and other matériel into North Vietnam. In fact, the U.S. Air Force attempted to avoid sinking or damaging such vessels during repeated bombing assaults on Haiphong harbor.

With regard to Iraq, on the other hand, there is an actual embargo. Any ship that persists in seeking to run the blockade risks being blown out of the water — with the blessing of Security Council Resolution 665, which euphemistically calls upon governments "deploying maritime forces to the area to use such measures commensurate to the specific circumstances as may be necessary . . . to halt all inward and outward maritime shipping." With that reality in mind, no Iraqi or other tanker or merchant vessel has so far run the blockade once hailed, although several have been the target of warning shots across the bow before agreeing to turn back or be boarded by imperialist forces.

The U.S. government estimates that the blockade has cut off 90 percent of Iraq's imports and 97 percent of its exports and slashed nonmilitary economic production by some 40 percent since September. Even if these figures are exaggerated, the effects of this brutal blockade are already taking a heavy toll on the peoples of Iraq and Kuwait. As Cuban Foreign Minister Malmierca explained before the Security Council November 29, the adoption of "a resolution implementing a total blockade that did not exempt foodstuffs and medicines" has "turned millions of elderly people, women, and children . . . into hostages of hunger and death."

"There are already children and those suffering illnesses among the civilian Iraqi population who have died as a result of the lack of medicine in the hospitals," Malmierca said. "The presence of more than 200 Cuban doctors and nurses, who have been rendering their services free of charge in that country for more than 12 years, enables us to testify to this fact."

There is already a lack of milk vital to infant health in Iraq, and its price has shot up by some 400 percent. The prices of other basic staples are also rising sharply.

From the outset of the imperialist-orchestrated efforts to impose the blockade in August, socialist Cuba has taken the moral high ground on this issue. Cuba's UN Ambassador Ricardo Alarcón explained to the Security Council in September:

"Cuba regards as completely inadmissible the very idea of claiming that hunger can be used to deprive peoples of what is an absolutely fundamental human right of every single human being in every part of the world and in any circumstance — that is, the right to receive adequate food and appropriate medical care."

"We do not believe that anyone has the political, juridical, or moral authority to apply inhuman measures such as those whose sole and exclusive victims would be innocent civilians."

Consistent with that position, the Cuban government has refused to cancel its food export agreements with Iraq or to withdraw its volunteer medical brigade from Iraqi hospitals.

Youth hold antiwar teach-ins March 16

BY PETER THIERJUNG

Students and youth in the United States opposed to the U.S. and allied occupation of Iraq held a day of teach-ins and other educational activities and protest March 16. Leaders of the National Student and Youth Campaign for Peace in the Middle East reported that activities were held in at least 22 states and more than 40 cities.

The Student and Youth Campaign and the National Campaign for Peace in the Middle East, two national coalitions, called the March 16 protests. The National Network of Campuses Against the War endorsed the call for activities at a March 1-3 Chicago conference of 500.

"Exposing the Lies: The Truth about the War" was the theme of a teach-in at the University of Utah campus in Salt Lake City. More than 100 people attended the event sponsored by the Utah Coalition Against the U.S. War in the Middle East.

Participants in the teach-in screened a documentary by Bill Moyers on censorship in the media that the local PBS-TV affiliate had refused to air. A panel discussion followed.

Condemn allied slaughter

Keri Lynne Sanders, an active-duty Air Force reservist, condemned Washington for causing hundreds of thousands to die and be wounded in a war fought in the interests of Big Oil. She called on activists to continue defending the many GIs who refused to fight in the war and today face military trials with the possibility of lengthy jail terms.

An open-mike discussion followed the panel and individuals in the audience expressed a variety of views on the causes and effects of the war. There was a candlelight vigil at the federal building that evening.

"Days of Education" were organized at Oberlin College in Ohio by campus antiwar activists and the Coalition Against Apartheid and White Supremacy. Several presentations were scheduled, including on Cuba's stand toward the war against Iraq, the parallels between the Mideast conflict and the 1950-53 Korean War, and on Malcolm X's views on imperialist war.

Cuba's principled stand

Jon Hillson, the Socialist Workers Party candidate for Board of Education in Cleveland, told students that Cuba had been the only member of the United Nations to take a consistent and principled stand opposing the U.S. drive toward war with Iraq.

In his presentation, Hillson explained how the Cuban government's uncompromising position reaffirmed the revolution's 30 years of opposition to "imperialist arrogance, from Vietnam to the Congo, from Nicaragua to Angola, and the Korean peninsula."

Chung Wha Hong, a leader of Young Koreans United (YKU) from Washington, D.C., said, "Iraq, like Korea, is the victim of a foreign military intervention led by the United States under cover of the United Nations."

"Our country is divided along the 38th parallel," the YKU activist said. "No communication is allowed between the people of the north and south. Even members of the same family cannot see, call, or write each other."

A meeting that evening in Cleveland was held at the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers union hall drew 70 people. The meeting was sponsored by the Cleveland Campaign for Peace in the Middle East, the Coalition Against U.S. Intervention in the Middle East, and other groups. Rev. C. J. Matthews, president of the Cleveland chapter of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, praised the activists and urged more united efforts in the future against war.

An all-day teach-in at North Carolina State University in Raleigh attracted 125 people. Almost half of those attending were students, including activists with Students for Peace, a campus group that organized protests against the Mideast war.

New to politics

"It's the first time I've been involved in politics," one young activist said. "Now we're trying to figure out where to go from here."

Workshops on issues from U.S. foreign policy to student activism were held. Discussion periods offered an opportunity for an

exchange on the roots of the war and the U.S. government's goals.

Opponents of Washington's war against Iraq kicked off a full day of activities in Philadelphia with a silent memorial procession for the Arab and U.S. casualties of the war. The march began at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial and wound its way downtown to meet others who had gathered for a teach-in.

Act for Peace in the Middle East, the city coalition, sponsored the educational event that 170 people attended. Workshops were centers for discussion on the war. Many agreed that efforts now should be focused on demanding the immediate withdrawal of troops from Iraq. Links were made between the war and the funds that could have been spent on education, health care, jobs, and housing.

Rusty Tackett, a leader of the Coalition Against the War in the Gulf, told a teach-in in Charleston, West Virginia, that the war in the Mideast got him interested in politics.

Tackett explained that, as a fluent German speaker, he had considered being a translator for the army. When they told him he needed to learn Arabic, however, he became suspicious. "It's then that I realized the U.S. is planning to be in the Mideast for a long time," he said.

David Anshen of the Young Socialist Alliance and Linda Meade of the Rainbow Coalition joined Tackett on a panel. "Although the fighting is over, the U.S. government has not obtained its objectives or solved the problems that caused this war and will cause future wars," Anshen said.

Students at the University of Georgia in Athens dismantled their Peace Camp on March 16. The camp was set up January 16 to protest the war and was organized by Students Against the War in the Middle East.

The university administration had earlier ordered students to take down the camp, but

Campus meeting blasts U.S. war on Iraq

BY PAT SMITH

BIRMINGHAM — Fifty people turned out here for a February 28 student and youth speak-out against the invasion of Iraq.

"The U.S. government was insistent on destroying Iraq," Miles College student Perry Gordon said. Washington only goes to war "for another country only if it has economic interests in it. Why do we have to insist on telling other countries what to do? It's the United States that's trying to dominate the world," he said.

Sponsored by the Student Committee Against U.S. Intervention in the Middle East, the teach-in was held at the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) and was chaired by professor of Middle Eastern Studies Dr. Ruth LaMont.

Dan Furman of the Young Socialist Alliance said that, while the big-business media is pushing the claim of a victory by Washington, "this was not a victory for the American people. We won't see peace in the Middle East nor a stable situation in the region," he said. "The United States now has a troop presence in the Middle East, the strongest since the regime of the Shah of Iran."

A former member of the 82nd Airborne Division, Tracy Smitherman, told the audience of his experiences after enlisting at the age of 19. He is currently a student at UAB.

"I was a victim of the 'be all you can be' syndrome," he said. He described how he wanted to go to college, but had no money or job. The army offered to pay \$25,000 for school and a \$5,000 bonus if he signed up for the infantry.

"After one month I realized I had made a big mistake. The army has no respect for human life and it dehumanizes people through racist name-calling," he said.

Tracy Graham, a junior at Shades Valley High School, said she thought the war was "fought in the interests of oil companies. The soldiers had no choice of whether they wanted to go. The money spent could have been used to help the educational process here. But the government," she said, "is more interested in building military power than in building knowledge."

The cochair of the student antiwar coali-



Militant/Dave Wulp

Salt Lake City, Utah, antiwar demonstration in December. Students and youth discussed the war and continued U.S. occupation of Iraq at March 16 events.

support from students, faculty, and the community forced the officials to back down. "We are going to camp again if the conflict resumes," Allyson Booth, the president of the student antiwar group, said.

"The government isn't honest about its aims in the Middle East," a student at the event said. "I'm sick of being lied to," another added.

A daylong "Southwest Regional Conference on the Persian Gulf Crisis" was held in Houston. Seventy-five people participated in the plenary sessions and workshops. Activists came from Dallas; Austin, Texas; New Orleans; and Arkansas.

A demonstration of 120 people marched from Seattle Central Community College to the federal building in downtown Seattle on March 16. The protest was organized by the Northwest Coalition Against U.S. Military Intervention in the Middle East.

Many protesters carried placards that said "No to Bush's new world order!" that had a

drawing of police beating a man lying on the ground, a reference to the March 3 Los Angeles police beating of Rodney King. Protest demands included, "Bring the troops home now," "U.S. out of the Middle East," "Money for jobs, education, health care, and AIDS research, not for war," and "Fight racism, not the Arab people."

Dr. Muhammad Said, a physician who had just returned from Iraq, spoke at the send-off rally telling of the atrocities inflicted on the Iraqi people by U.S.-led war and bombing. Two GIs, Warren Davis of Seattle and Jeff Patterson, who refused to fight in the Middle East, spoke at a downtown rally.

Stuart Crome from Seattle; Mike Galati from Salt Lake City, Utah; Margaret Husk from Cleveland; Robert Dees from Greensboro, North Carolina; Maureen Coletta from Philadelphia; David Anshen from Charleston, West Virginia; Ntisi Shishebe from Atlanta; and Mary Selvas from Houston contributed to this article.

tion, Sandra Gallimore, also spoke. Active in defending women's rights in the United States, Gallimore argued against the government's statements that the war was for democracy, pointing to the denial of fundamental rights for women in the region.

Several participants encouraged those at the teach-in to continue to hold meetings until

all the U.S. troops are brought home.

David Gespass, chairperson of Birmingham's Committee Against U.S. Intervention in the Middle East, said that "Bush and Powell will continue until [Iraqi President Saddam] Hussein is overthrown and a puppet government they can control replaces him."

Pittsburgh coalition votes 'no' on collaboration with LaRouchites

BY BILL SCHEER

PITTSBURGH — The Committee for a Comprehensive Peace in the Middle East, an antiwar coalition here, had an important point on its February 18 meeting agenda: relations with the followers of Lyndon LaRouche, an ultrarightist group.

The LaRouchites had shown up at the coalition's demonstrations and began attending its meetings, usually announcing their events and displaying their literature. They asked the coalition to share its "intelligence network" and requested that the LaRouchites' activities be listed and built in the coalition's materials.

The coalition steering committee presented a motion at the meeting that said in part that "we will not be associated with or knowingly collaborate with" the LaRouche group and made reference to their racism and antisemitism.

More than a dozen people spoke in the discussion. Many had firsthand experience with the outfit. They documented the LaRouchites' virulent reactionary views, abusive threats, and sometimes violent attacks against antiwar, gay, labor, Black, and Jewish organizations.

Activists spoke forcefully against having anything to do with an organization that scapegoats gays for the AIDS crisis. "Intern gays" and "Nuke Jane Fonda" are among the slogans they have used at their airport literature table, one speaker said. "We can see who their 'intelligence network' is target-ing."

One woman, a spokesperson for the Military Families Support Network and a leading activist in the coalition, described her expe-

rience with them. At a recent antiwar rally, she had a brief discussion with one of their members to find out what they were about. She was later outraged to learn that the LaRouche group was identifying her with their organization and using her name to promote their activities.

Some participants spoke for reaffirming the principle of refusing to exclude from the coalition anyone who wanted to actively oppose the war in the Middle East. But they also recognized the need to protect the movement by excluding the LaRouchites.

Three supporters of the LaRouche group spoke, identifying themselves with the movement against the Vietnam War. They invoked the name of Martin Luther King, Jr., and spoke about the fight against racism. But they did not speak to the documented record of the last 15 years that had been presented by other speakers.

The big majority of the 80 activists present voted for the motion against the LaRouchites. Less than half a dozen voted against it. Several young activists who had no direct experience with, or knowledge of the group, said they had become convinced by the discussion. Literature on the group was made available and a lively informal discussion among activists continued after the meeting.

After the vote, Leroy Hodge, a leader of the coalition, summed up the feeling of the body saying that having dealt with this problem, the coalition could move forward and redouble its efforts to fight the war. His remarks were greeted with loud applause and the meeting adjourned on an upbeat note.

CALIFORNIA

Los Angeles

The Mohawk Nation: The Fight for Land, Freedom, and Justice. Video on Mohawk revolt. Speaker: Mark Maracle, Mohawk Nation. Sat., March 30, 7:30 p.m. Translation to Spanish. 2546 W Pico Blvd. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum, El Foro Laboral Perspectiva Mundial. Tel: (213) 380-9460.

FLORIDA

Miami

Defend the Palestinian People. Sat., April 6, 7:30 p.m. 137 NE 54th St. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (305) 756-1020.

ILLINOIS

Chicago

Socialist Workers Windup Campaign Rally.

Socialist trade unionists to hold national meetings

Socialist Workers Party members who are members of industrial trade unions will hold a series of national meetings during the next three weeks. The unionists will assess their work carried out during the party campaign against the U.S.-led imperialist war in the Mideast. They will also discuss the current state of the labor movement.

A central part of the gatherings will be Saturday evening public forums where leaders of the SWP will speak on the world political situation. These events will promote the upcoming issue of *New International*, a magazine of Marxist politics and theory. The issue will focus on imperialism and its wars.

The dates and locations of the meetings are listed below.

March 30-31: Cleveland — Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union, **Houston** — Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Union, **St. Louis** — United Auto Workers, **Pittsburgh** — United Mine Workers of America.

April 6-7: Boston — International Union of Electronic Workers, **Des Moines, Iowa** — United Food and Commercial Workers Union.

April 13-14: San Francisco — International Association of Machinists, **New York** — International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, **Chicago** — United Steelworkers of America, **Atlanta** — United Transportation Union.

In addition, a Utah state meeting of SWP members will be held April 6-7 in Price. Cindy Jaquith, the business and promotions director of *New International*, will be the featured speaker at a forum on "Opening Guns of World War III," the lead section in the upcoming issue of *New International*.

Speaker: James Warren, Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor; Estelle DeBates, Socialist Workers Party candidate for city clerk; Eric Matheis, Socialist Workers Party candidate for city treasurer. Sat., March 30. Reception, 6 p.m.; rally, 7 p.m. 545 W Roosevelt Rd. Donation: \$5. Sponsor: Socialist Workers Campaign. Tel: (312) 829-6815 or 829-7018.

MARYLAND

Baltimore

Current Stage in the Struggle against Apartheid in South Africa. Panel discussion. Sat., March 30. Dinner, 6:30 p.m.; forum, 7:30 p.m. 2913 Greenmount Ave. Forum donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (301) 235-0013.

MASSACHUSETTS

Boston

The War at Home. Speaker: Christopher Hedger, Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor of Boston, member International Association of Machinists Local 1726. Sat., March 30, 7:30 p.m. 605 Massachusetts Ave. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (617) 247-6772.

MINNESOTA

Austin

The Struggle for a United Ireland. Speaker: Dean Peoples, Socialist Workers Party, member United Food and Commercial Workers Local 9. 407½ N Main St. Donation: \$2.50. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (507) 433-3461.

MISSOURI

St. Louis

Socialist Educational Conference. Grand Opening Pathfinder Books. "The Fight Against Imperialism and War." Sat., April 6, 3 p.m. "Decline of the American Empire." Sat., April 6, 7:30 p.m. "Prospects for Socialism in the 1900s." Sun., April 7, 11 a.m. Speaker: James Mac Warren, Socialist Workers Party 1988 candidate for U.S. President. 1622 S Broadway. Donation: \$5. Sponsors: Young Socialist Alliance, Socialist Workers Campaign. Tel: (314) 421-3808, 361-0250.

NEW YORK

Manhattan

Speak-out Against Police Brutality. Speakers: Ron Barnes, activist in fight for justice for Federico Pereira, killed by New York police; representative, Socialist Workers Party; supporter, Mark Curtis Defense Committee. Sat., March 30, 7:30 p.m. 191 7th Ave. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (212) 675-6740, 727-8421.

OHIO

Cleveland

Opening Guns of World War III: Washington's Assault on Iraq. Celebrating two new issues of *New International*. Speaker: Ernie Mailhot, Socialist Workers Party National Committee. Sat., March 30, 7:30 p.m. 1863 W 25th St. Donation: \$2.50. Sponsor: New International Fund. Tel: (216) 861-6150.

PENNSYLVANIA

Philadelphia

The Struggle for Korean Unification. Explosive Fight for National Liberation. Speaker: Doug Jenness, recently visited North and South Korea on *Militant* reporting trip; Nebraster Bowman, Korean War veteran, human rights

activist. Sat., March 30, 7:30 p.m. 1906 South St. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Forum. Tel: (215) 546-8218.

Pittsburgh

Opening Guns of World War III: Washington's Assault on Iraq. Speaker: Wendy Lyons, Socialist Workers Party National Committee. Sat., March 30, 7 p.m. 4905 Penn Ave. Sponsor: New International Fund. Tel: (412) 362-6767.

UTAH

Salt Lake City

The Fight for Women's Rights Today. Sat., March 30, 7:30 p.m. 147 E 900 S. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum/Foro Perspectiva Mundial. Tel: (801) 355-1124.

WASHINGTON

Seattle

Washington Farm Workers Fight for Justice. Speakers: Tomás Villanueva, president United Farm Workers of Washington State; Manuel Cortez, first vice-president United Farm Workers of Washington State; Matt Herreshoff, Socialist Workers Party. Sat., March 30, 7:30 p.m. 1405 E Madison. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (206) 323-1755.

The Soviet Union in World Politics. Speaker: Mark Severs, Socialist Workers Party. Sat., April 6, 7:30 p.m. 1405 E Madison. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (206) 323-1755.

WEST VIRGINIA

Morgantown

Revolutionary Cuba Today: Cuba's Role in the Fight against the War in the Middle East. Slideshow. Speaker: Jon Hillson, Socialist Workers Party, visited Cuba, member Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union. Sat., April 6, 7:30 p.m. 221 Pleasant St. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (304) 296-0055.

U.S. campaign against Cuba

Continued from Page 3

demned to die, on the average, 30 years before his white fellow citizens; each burnt-down village in Vietnam; each Panamanian killed in El Chorrillo; or each child massacred by their planes in Baghdad. History will certainly not judge them with benevolence."

The measures adopted against Cuba were accompanied by adoption of a resolution launching a probe into human rights abuses in Iraq. In past years, when Iraq was conducting its war against Iran with the backing of U.S. imperialism, it managed to consistently avoid the attention of the international rights body.

A number of other governments, including many who had allied themselves with the U.S. government's war against Iraq, succeeded in deflecting motions concerning human rights in their countries.

A draft motion critical of Soviet military intervention against independence demonstrators in the Baltic region was shelved. Similarly, no motion was voted on concerning human rights in China.

Not every effort by the U.S. government to push the commission into alignment with

BRITAIN

Manchester

The Frame-up of Mark Curtis. Video. Speaker: Joyce Fairchild, Curtis supporter, participant in delegation to United Nations Human Rights Commission meeting in Geneva. Fri., April 5, 7:30 p.m. Unit 4, 60 Shudehill. Donation: £1. Sponsor: Militant Forums. Tel: 061-839 1766.

CANADA

Montréal

Cuba's Fight to Expose Washington's War Drive Against Iraq. Speaker: Joanne Pritchard, Communist League, member United Steelworkers of America. Sat., March 30, 7:30 p.m. 6566, boul. Saint-Laurent. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Forum Lutte Ouvrière. Tel: (514) 273-2503.

Ottawa's Anti-Québec Campaign and the Fight for Québec Sovereignty. Speakers: Joe Young, Communist League candidate for mayor of Toronto, member International Association of Machinists; Michel Dugré, Communist League. Sat., April 6, 7:30 p.m. 6566, boul. Saint-Laurent. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Forum Lutte Ouvrière. Tel: (514) 273-2503.

Young Socialists Discussions on the Middle East War. Every Sun., 3 p.m. 6566 boul. St-Laurent. Tel: (514) 273-2503.

Vancouver

Stop Attacks on Native People. Defend Rights of Gitksan and Wet'suwet'en, Lil'wat, Mohawks, and Others. Speakers: spokesperson Gitksan and Wet'suwet'en; Jennie Jack, member Plinget Nation, participant in Mohawk struggle at Kanestake; Ron Dan, Lil'wat activist from Mount Currie. Fri., March 29, 7:30 p.m. 1053 Kingsway, Suite 102. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (604) 872-8343.

Lessons for Today from World War II, Not a War for Democracy. Speaker: Mary Ellen Marus, Communist League. Sat., April 6, 7:30 p.m. 1053 Kingsway, Suite 102. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (604) 872-8343.

its foreign policy needs was as successful.

On many of the disputed resolutions adopted at the session, U.S. representatives found themselves in a minority. They cast the only "no" in the roll-call vote on the implementation of the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid, which calls on states to take "all appropriate steps" to halt corporations within their borders from trading with South Africa. The U.S. counted among its "successes" here convincing 12 governments to abstain on the resolution.

A resolution protesting Israeli government attacks on Palestinians in the territories occupied by Israel following the 1967 war was adopted over the sole objection of Washington. Again, the U.S. registered its progress in shaping the commission's agenda by the abstentions of its imperialist and other allies.

On a motion to reaffirm UN recognition of the right to development as a basic human right, the U.S. delegation cast the lone "no" vote. On this measure only the Japanese and German governments abstained. The motion was adopted 40-1.

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NEW ZEALAND

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No Stormin' Norman? — "We don't want to be misleading, but too much combat footage interferes with the long-term attributes of Army service that we want to por-



Harry Ring

tray: money for college, skills training, and relevance to a civilian career." — Col. John Myers on why recruitment commercials will not mention Operation Desert Storm.

Would they lie to you? —

Bush repeated the story with relish: 312 premature babies died in Kuwait because invading Iraqi forces stole their incubators. On March 15, ABC World News reported the babies died because hospital staffers fled the Iraqi invasion. The director of Kuwait's primary health-care system told ABC the incubator story was simply "propaganda."

Busted union-buster — "When First World War flying ace Eddie Rickenbacker sealed a time capsule for Eastern Airlines' 20th birthday in 1948, the future looked bright for the company. The contents of the copper box are to be revealed soon, but officials want to first find out whether any valuable items might

be included in the dead airline's bankruptcy estate." — Toronto *Globe & Mail*.

Identity crisis — Gorbachev recently declared, "I'm not ashamed to say that I'm a communist and adhere to the communist idea, and with this — I will leave for the other world." Wonder what he'll do when he finds he's not a communist and there isn't another world.

A cool glass of water — To cope with the California drought, officials are offering big rice-growers \$125 an acre-foot for water that they buy at a government-subsidized price of \$3 an acre-foot.

Thirsty type — "That \$125 sounds low to me. . . . They're gonna have to get in the ballpark on price." — Robert Vice, president of the California Farm Bureau Federation.

Really? — Medicare cuts have left some 20,000 kidney-disease patients with less dialysis treatment than they need. Such patients are twice as likely to die as those getting longer treatment. Responding to these findings, the president of the biggest U.S. owner of dialysis-treatment centers, National Medical Care, Inc., said, "Economic decisions can and do entail clinical compromises."

Better than Medicare — Being

petless, we're not sure what Friskies Health Care Products are. But with proof of purchase, you qualify for a discount on a pet health and accident insurance plan which reportedly covers all but routine checkups. We wonder — if we use the pet care products ourselves, could we qualify for the insurance?

Capitalism doesn't exist? — "If it is a defense of unlimited inherited wealth, or unlimited inherited privilege, or a society in which the gap between the richest and the poorest never diminishes, then it's not capitalism at all." — Hugh Segal, chairman of Canada's Advance Planning & Communications Ltd.

Bush's 'anticrime' laws: assault on civil liberties

BY PETER THIERJUNG

The Bush administration is promoting a package of legislation that if passed would give cops and prosecutors wider latitude in victimizing working people and erode constitutional protections against illegal searches and confinement.

U.S. President George Bush announced the proposed legislation in his March 6 speech to Congress on the war against Iraq. Urging bipartisan support for the assault on civil liberties he told lawmakers, "If our forces could win the ground war in 100 hours, then surely the Congress can pass this legislation in 100 days."

Referring to troops returning from the Arab-Persian Gulf, Bush said, "Our veterans deserve to come home to an America where it is safe to walk the streets."

The campaign for passage of the legislation was stepped up a week later when Bush spoke to a meeting of state attorneys general. "No more loopholes, no more roles of the dice," he said. "Urge the Congress to heed the voices of our people, our police, our prosecutors, and help us take back the streets."

The president's proposals include extending the federal death penalty to cover about 30 crimes, including treason, espionage, drug offenses, and certain terrorist acts. "If somebody blew up Macy's or Metro Center [in Washington, D.C.] right now, there's no death penalty," Andrew McBride, an associate deputy attorney general, said, defending the measure to the press.

A new offense punishable by death is also being proposed — use of weapons of mass destruction that result in U.S. citizens being killed anywhere in the world. "Weapons of mass destruction would cover the use of bombs, gas, or radioactive material in crimes here and abroad," McBride said. It is "aimed at Iraqi terrorists and other groups that might use such methods."

Court rules barring the submission of illegally seized evidence at trial would be altered to allow it, if firearms are involved and the police acted in "good faith." Mandatory sentences would also be imposed on those



Los Angeles protester against police brutality. Bush is proposing pro-police legislation.

charged with possession of a gun, if they had a previous record of convictions on drug charges or violent crime.

A provision of the legislation if enacted would allow secret hearings to deport non-citizens suspected of terrorism. Another would require mandatory pretrial AIDS tests for accused sex offenders.

Bipartisan support in Congress

Signaling the bipartisan support Bush can expect in Congress, Democrat Sen. Joseph Biden told the *Washington Post* that Democrats are "ready right now" to approve virtually all the elements of the White House bill, if Bush will accept gun control amendments and increased federal funding for state and local police.

The White House submitted similar legis-

lation to Congress last year. The package died in committee when some lawmakers appended an amendment that would have lifted death penalty sentences for defendants who proved statistically that their punishment was the result of racial bias. Blacks and Latinos compose a higher proportion of the inmates on death row in U.S. prisons today than in the population as a whole.

Bush threatened to veto the entire package because of the amendment. U.S. Attorney General Richard Thornburgh called the measure a means to "invalidate virtually every capital sentence now in effect."

The American Civil Liberties Union has condemned the Bush administration's proposed legislation, saying it would "endanger civil liberties, while doing nothing to prevent crime."

"It is outrageous that the president apparently intends to use his popularity from the Persian Gulf [war] to call for new limits on individual liberties at home," said Morton Halperin, director of the ACLU's Washington, D.C., office, in a statement to the press.

The Bush administration's attempts to strike new blows against civil liberties and constitutional protections were launched just days prior to the brutal March 3 beating by Los Angeles cops of 25-year-old Rodney King.

The beating was recorded on videotape by a local resident and has been replayed on national television numerous times. The incident provoked a public outcry forcing the U.S. Justice Department to launch investigations to determine whether civil rights violations had occurred and to review allegations of police brutality across the country.

Memorandum debated

The "crime" legislation also comes in the midst of a growing debate over Thornburgh's 1989 memorandum to federal prosecutors around the country.

In the memorandum, Thornburgh asserted that a prosecutor's duty to enforce the law is sometimes in conflict with ethics rules or codes of conduct established by the legal profession and enacted by state courts.

These rules should not be allowed to "cripple federal investigative techniques," the attorney general said. He asserted that while states have the authority to set ethics standards for attorneys, prosecutors can be exempted from these standards because of their "federal responsibility."

Thornburgh, asserting the supremacy of federal over state law, wrote that a federal prosecutor could not be punished for violating ethics rules, including ones that prohibit contacts with a defendant "in the course of authorized law-enforcement activity."

Defense lawyers and bar groups have challenged the memorandum saying that it encouraged prosecutors to ignore ethics rules in obtaining convictions.

"When the chief law-enforcement officer of the country tells his litigators that they are free to ignore the code of professional ethics, that sends out a fairly awesome message," Gerald Goldstein of the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers told the *New York Times*. "That message is: You are above the law."

The American Bar Association, an institution little prone to dispute the Justice Department, has also registered its opposition to the memorandum. A committee in the House of Representatives has also urged the attorney general to withdraw it.

Cases involving breaches of ethics rules by prosecutors are now reaching the courts. San Francisco Federal District Judge Marilyn Patel indicated in December her intent to challenge Thornburgh's memorandum in a drug case before her in which the prosecutor spoke directly to a defendant without informing the defense attorney.

'Assassination of Malcolm X' is republished by Pathfinder

BY SETH GALINSKY

Who killed Malcolm X? What are the ideas they tried to silence? *The Assassination of Malcolm X*, just republished by Pathfinder with an index and updated introduction, points the way to answering these questions about one of the most outstanding revolutionary leaders of this century. Pathfinder first published the book in 1976.

Many of Malcolm's ideas have been distorted, both by the big-business media and by opponents of his views.

To counter the misrepresentations, the book "aims to stimulate the study of his views and a recognition of their importance for effective political action against racism, war, the oppression of women, and the exploitation of working people the world over," says the new introduction.

Most of the speeches and articles in *The Assassination of Malcolm X*, by George Breitman, Herman Porter, and Baxter Smith, originally appeared in the *Militant*. The book points out the contradictions in the government version of events surrounding the Feb-

ruary 21, 1965, assassination of Malcolm at the Audubon Ballroom in New York.

"The evidence points to government complicity" in the murder of Malcolm, the book states. The new introduction includes revelations related to the assassination that have come to light since the book was first issued.

To meet the growing interest in revolutionary ideas and the fight for Black rights, Pathfinder will reprint two other titles this month.

Blacks in America's Wars will be reprinted in a run of 10,000. The previous printing of 4,000 sold out in ten months. Of these, 1,400 copies were sold in just two weeks at the height of Washington's war against the people of Iraq.

Fighting Racism in World War II, out of print since last summer, will also be reprinted.

One reflection of the heightened interest are sales of *Malcolm X Talks to Young People*, which includes several speeches where Malcolm explains the nature of imperialism and how to fight it. *Malcolm X Talks to Young People* has sold 10,000 copies since it was published by Pathfinder in January.

—25 AND 50 YEARS AGO—



VANCOUVER, Canada — The largest antiwar demonstration in this city's history — 5,000 at its peak — massed at the Vancouver Court House to protest U.S. aggression in Vietnam.

Almost 3,000 marched two miles from City Hall, and headed toward the U.S. consulate. The police cut the march short, preventing all but 800 demonstrators from reaching the consulate.

Banners and placards calling for withdrawal of U.S. troops now and slogans calling for an end to the Canadian government complicity in the war dominated the rally.



April 5, 1941

The most reliable and indispensable instrument to British capitalism in the war is the trade union bureaucracy. It is through leaders like Bevin, Morrison, Citrine, and

Alexander that British imperialism entraps the working class into fighting solely for the interests of capitalism.

Suppose Churchill had tried to force the total conscription of labor on the English proletariat by himself. Suppose an out-and-out Tory government had given to itself the totalitarian powers enacted into law in the Emergency Power Act. This act gives the government the right to arrest and detain in prison without any charges, without any trial, without any explanation of any kind, any person it sees fit — for the duration of the war! It gives Churchill the right to conscript all men and women, of whatever age, and to send them to work or to other duties anywhere in the land.

Would the workers have entrusted such sweeping powers to a Tory government? Of course not! They would have put up a tremendous battle for their rights. They would have denounced a government which tried to put an end to all their democratic rights. Very wisely, therefore, Churchill put to use those labor "leaders" who dominate the trade unionists by use of their powerful machinery of bureaucracy. He established a Tory-Labor "Coalition" government; that is, a government in which the false representatives of the working class make the workers responsible for the functioning of the capitalist system.

End criminal embargo on Iraq

The United Nations report featured in the *International Socialist Review* supplement to this issue exposes in detail the widespread devastation caused by the seven-month war against Iraq. The criminal economic sanctions and the relentless bombing assaults have resulted in life-threatening shortages and a full-scale catastrophe for the Iraqi people.

The report shows the true face of imperialism and what it has in store for working people. The war against Iraq and the destruction resolved nothing for its crisis-racked capitalist system and only made things worse for working people everywhere. Far from being in a "post war" period, the ruling capitalist classes are and will continue to be driven toward more brutal imperialist wars.

Washington's embargo, backed by majority vote of the UN Security Council on August 6, 1990, was itself an act of war. Enforced by U.S. military power, the blockade is the most complete and devastating ever inflicted on a country. Even during the Vietnam war no such blockade was imposed on the Vietnamese people.

The Cuban government, whose volunteer medical personnel remained in Iraq during the war, began sounding the alarm against the blockade from the beginning. Cuba spoke up when very few facts about the suffering and hardship imposed upon the Iraqi people had come to light. They used their temporary seat on the UN Security Council to side with the Iraqi people against imperialism and campaigned for an end to the blockade.

The UN report shows what the embargo did to the Iraqi masses. The blockade was touted by some who claimed to be against the war as the "peaceful alternative" to the bombing and invasion. But the embargo was part and parcel of the total war carried out against the Iraqi people.

The embargo, like the weeks of allied bombing that followed, was designed to cut off any support system needed to sustain and maintain an army — food supply, munitions,

weapons production, transportation, and communication. This is what a modern imperialist war is — a total war that, although not targeting civilian areas for mass destruction, ends up with conditions described in the report. Tens of thousands of Iraqi people died as a result.

As the facts about the brutal embargo, the destruction from the massive bombing, and the cold-blooded slaughter of fleeing Iraqi soldiers come to light, U.S. President George Bush deepens his crime against Iraq. He argues for continuing the embargo to completely bring Iraq to its knees.

Washington and its allies continue to press further demands on the Baghdad regime. They are tightening the noose around the neck of the Iraqi toilers and are stepping up attacks against the country as a whole from their expanding and illegal occupation base in southern Iraq.

Working people and youth the world over should demand that Washington end its occupation of Iraq and that all foreign troops be withdrawn from the Mideast.

Workers and farmers and their organizations should demand that the United States and its imperialist allies heed the call by the UN delegation and end the embargo against Iraq now and immediately lift all sanctions.

Workers, young people, and others who oppose Washington's course should widely distribute the special *International Socialist Review* that contains the UN report. Many who protested the war drive against Iraq and others will want to read the facts firsthand. Stepping up distribution of the December *International Socialist Review* and the Pathfinder book *U.S. Hands Off the Mideast! Cuba Speaks Out at the United Nations* at the same time is a crucial part of getting out the truth today.

We urge *Militant* readers and others to order bundles of the *International Socialist Review* and circulate it. As the UN report concludes about the growing calamity in Iraq, "Time is short."

Daryl Gates must go!

"Gates must go!" This demand should be championed by all those who are outraged by the racism and widespread brutality wielded by Los Angeles cops.

As chief of the Los Angeles Police Department, Daryl Gates is directly responsible for the actions of the city's cops. He must be held accountable for the brutal assault on Rodney King.

Gates' comment that Black people might be dying from police choke holds because "their veins or arteries do not open up as fast as they do on normal people," is an example of the anti-working class and racist lead he has given to cops in the city. His viewpoint encourages this ruthless behavior. To tens of thousands of working people, Gates has become a symbol of the racism and brutality that permeates the police department. He is in fact the point man for the racist conduct of the cops.

Forcing Gates out would be a victory for all working people. His ouster would strengthen the groundswell of outrage that is mounting. It is a necessary step in the fight to widen exposure of and opposition to police brutality. Such a victory would increase confidence that a fight can be successfully waged and would encourage others to join in the growing battle.

Winning the removal of Gates would send a powerful message to others in the police department that brutality

will not be tolerated. It would push back the employers' ability to use cops against strikes, union protests, or other social protest actions.

Gates maintains he will not resign and has begun to organize others to defend him. It will take a determined effort to oust him as chief of police. The challenge is to keep up the pressure by continuing the protests and building them as broadly as possible.

The March 3 attack against King, captured on videotape, has exposed the fact that police brutality in Los Angeles is a routine practice. Many people in the Los Angeles area consider the thug actions of the cops a part of everyday life. The fact that two-thirds of those polled by the *Los Angeles Times* favor a resignation by Gates shows a potential to tap this widely held opinion and galvanize it into a fight to get him out and to further oppose the brutal methods of the police.

It has been the actions taken by working people so far that have resulted in the indictment of four of the police thugs. But some 27 cops were present during the vicious beating that was committed that night and not one lifted a finger to stop it. They must all be held responsible for the attempted murder of King. They should be indicted, prosecuted and jailed.

Bush's bill is attack on rights

The Bush administration has opened an attack on the democratic rights of all working people with legislation, recently submitted to Congress, that would strengthen the hand of the capitalist rulers against the working class.

Demagogically stating that his bill would help GIs returning from the Mideast and others to "take back the streets," U.S. President George Bush is seeking to convince working people that the legislation is in their interests. Nothing could be further from the truth.

The measure includes provisions that drastically increase the number of offenses punishable by the death penalty and allow the use of illegally obtained evidence in court. The bill is being discussed as the government is pressing to release prosecutors from lawyer's ethics requirements.

The death penalty is anti-working-class to the core. It is used overwhelmingly against the working-class poor and disproportionately against Blacks, Latinos, and Native Americans. It is a way of institutionalizing terrorist violence against working people.

The ability to submit illegally obtained evidence would encourage illegal searches and seizures, the planting or manufacturing of "evidence," fishing expeditions by cops, and other incursions on the right to privacy.

Releasing prosecutors from ethics codes would inevitably

result in more abuses of the rights of defendants, more frame-ups, more forced confessions, and further erosion of the right to be presumed innocent.

The recent case of the Birmingham Six in England is an example of the type of injustice such a bill would encourage. The six men were picked up by the police and framed up through manufactured evidence and forced confessions. They spent 16 years in jail until the state's evidence against them fell apart.

Far from having their hands tied, the police and their courts have been riding roughshod over the rights of working people. The United States has the highest per capita imprisonment rate in the world, with more than 1 million people behind bars. The number of men and women in prison has doubled since 1980.

As capitalism enters into a deepening economic crisis, the rulers are seeking to chip away at the rights working people need in order to be able to fight. The rulers want to utilize the provisions of this new law as a weapon against every worker who steps out of line — who fights for a union, goes on strike, fights for democratic rights, or opposes imperialist war. To the capitalist class these people are criminals.

Working people should discuss this new attack with other workers and campaign against it.

Communists and labor's strategic line of march

BY DOUG JENNESS

One of the eight books Pathfinder Readers Club members can purchase at a 25 percent discount during the next two months is *The Changing Face of U.S. Politics: Building a Party of Socialist Workers*, by Jack Barnes. Barnes is the national secretary of the Socialist Workers Party.

The Changing Face of U.S. Politics is a book that will be of considerable interest to *Militant* readers who want to learn about the road to building a revolutionary working-class party in the context of the deepening capitalist crisis and imperialist wars. The volume includes reports and resolutions adopted by the Socialist Workers Party between 1975 and 1980. While that may seem a long time ago these documents remain very fresh and relevant.

With the 1974-75 recession it became evident that the post-World War II economic expansion that crested in the late 1960s was over and that the world capitalist system had

LEARNING ABOUT SOCIALISM

entered a long period of economic stagnation. A resolution adopted by the SWP at its 1975 convention, and contained in the book, stated:

"The effects of the combined social and economic shocks of the last half decade, coming on top of the changes in attitudes wrought by the movements of social protest of radicalization of the 1960s and 1970s, have brought us to a new threshold of a new period in the transformation of the political consciousness of the American working class."

In line with this turn in the world and the changes in the working class in the United States, the SWP began to turn its center of attention and activity to probing openings in the working class.

In 1978 the party decided its members should get jobs in the mines, mills, and factories organized by the industrial trade unions. "As a revolutionary working-class party facing the opening of a working-class radicalization," Barnes stated in a 1979 report, "that's where our base had to be. When we got that straightened out, we began to make our real turn. And we began bringing our organizational forms more in line with our actual needs."

This book describes the political and organizational perspectives of building a revolutionary party that is part of the vanguard of the working class. This includes the process through which the SWP developed a dual structure of branches around the country and national fractions in major industrial unions. In one of the reports, Barnes also explained the steps taken to organize systematic Marxist education of the party's membership. This included launching a national leadership school in 1980.

One of the central themes of the documents in *The Changing Face of U.S. Politics* is that as the most conscious part of the working class, communist workers put forward a program and strategy to advance labor along its "line of march" toward a workers' and farmers' government. The phrase and the concept of a strategic "line of march" to advance the working class toward political power comes from *The Communist Manifesto* drafted by Karl Marx and Frederick Engels.

Barnes stated in a 1979 report, "We explain and analyze current conditions to build bridges toward the achievement" of a workers' and farmers' government. And the SWP explains "the strategy that can organize and mobilize our class to do the job."

Several of the resolutions and reports refer to the Transitional Program adopted by the SWP in 1938. This document, Barnes noted, generalized the working-class road to power. But, he said, "It is not enough to learn the specifics of that program. We must also absorb and be able to use its method in responding to fresh events that continually come up."

Barnes outlined three elements to that method:

1) Revolutionists act in ways that give workers and the oppressed more confidence and seek to convince them in the course of day-to-day battles of their capacity to overturn capitalism;

2) Building bridges from the problems workers face and their understanding of them to broader socialist solutions;

3) Through common struggle and experience communist workers bring the historic lessons of the class struggle to fellow workers — a necessary component in overcoming the gap between the current political consciousness of working people and the deepening contradictions and crises in the capitalist system.

Barnes also noted that communist workers champion all progressive struggles. "But in deciding where we should concentrate our energies, we should always begin by stepping back and assessing how a particular struggle fits into advancing the working class to greater self-confidence and organization along the road to political power."

In an earlier report Barnes stated, "Marxists are part of the working class, not something outside of it. The revolutionary Marxist party is not simply the bearer of a program that constitutes the 'Marxist wing' of all progressive struggles."

The special offer for *The Changing Face of U.S. Politics* is open to all members of the Pathfinder Readers Club between April 1 and May 31. A one-year membership card in the Readers Club can be obtained for \$10 U.S. or \$5 from any Pathfinder bookstore.

British mine accidents cause injuries and deaths

This column is dedicated to reporting the resistance by working people to the employers' assault on their living standards, working conditions, and unions.

Working people around the world are involved in skirmishes over speedup, forced overtime, layoffs, or attacks on health and

Colliery, South Wales. In the last 12 months three serious accidents at the colliery (mine) have killed two other miners.

The Secretary of the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) Tower Lodge, Tyrone O'Sullivan, blamed British Coal management for the injuries. "Even if the two men

workers and are used to "avoid liability."

"Thyssen produces coal at low cost, but having contractors in the pit is divisive," Sullivan said. "Production is pushed too fast for safety. Even though Thyssen lost the contract at Tower due to the accident, 67 men have lost their jobs. The safety rules were not followed."

ON THE PICKET LINE

safety benefits. Unionists faced with steep takeback demands, lockouts, and union-busting moves by the employers have gone on strike to force the bosses to back down.

We invite you to contribute short items to this column as a way for other fighting workers around the world to read about and learn from these important struggles. Jot down a few lines to let other *Militant* readers know about what is happening at your workplace or in your union. If there is an interesting political discussion going on at work, we would like to hear about that, too.

Two miners were seriously burned March 3 when methane gas ignited during tunneling at Tower

broke the safety rules and endangered the entire pit, they were pressured to do so by their employers," he said. The men were among 67 union members employed by Thyssen Mining, a contracting company at the British Coal pit. "British Coal pressures contractors to achieve their targets or be replaced," O'Sullivan said.

In this case ventilation fans were not adequate to keep up with the miners' work, Sullivan explained. There was a danger of sparks being created by cutting edges that needed changing and not enough water where the picks meet the coal. "For an explosion you need sparks and methane. You often get one or the other but together it's disastrous," he said. Notices put up by management are not always explained to the

More than 400 striking workers at the University of Toronto and their supporters rallied and marched March 12. Maintenance workers, library workers, and teaching assistants organized by the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) and the Canadian Union of Educational Workers (CUEW) are striking the university for better pay and working conditions. The 4,000 workers are furious that the university administration is crying poverty when it has pocketed \$100 million from the employees' pension fund and has had operating surpluses of \$54 million in 1989 and 1990.

Speakers declaring their solidarity with the three striking union locals included representatives from the Labour Council of Metropolitan Toronto, the national officers of CUPE and the CUEW, and the Ontario Federation of Students.

Students have formed a strike support committee. The group published a leaflet explaining why undergraduate students should support the striking workers. The committee also organized a successful March 6 rally attended by hundreds of students.

For further information on how to organize solidarity with the striking workers contact: Hollis Joe, president of CUPE Local 1230, at (416) 598-8987; or Vanessa Kelly, chairperson of CUEW Local 2, at (416) 593-7057.

Teachers returned to classrooms in Vancouver, Canada, after waging a 10-day strike that won broad support among working people.

No sooner had the ink dried on the settlement, accepted by 97 percent of the 3,700 teachers, than government officials in British Columbia threatened to pass legislation to veto it. Like the federal government, province officials are on a drive to introduce controls on wages of public service workers.

The head of the Vancouver School Board also threatened cuts in the support staff to raise the extra \$7 million needed to hire 160 more teachers to reduce class sizes—the central objective of the strike. The support staff union

vowed to fight any attempt to eliminate jobs.

Teachers and their unions in British Columbia, all affiliated to the Teachers Federation, have organized rallies, rotating strikes, and in some cases full-scale strikes. The majority have already won a 7 percent annual salary increase and improvements in working conditions. The starting salary for a Vancouver elementary school teacher will reach \$33,362 (Can\$1=US\$1.15) by the end of the two-year contract.

"Over 80 percent of the people who stop to talk support us," said Sean Marlyn, a striker who teaches at Queen Victoria Elementary School in working-class East Vancouver. He handed out flyers explaining that teachers were fighting "for children with special needs and ESL (English as a second language) students to receive the resources they need to be successful."

Two major rallies in Vancouver drew 3,000 teachers each. The Ontario Secondary Teachers Association pledged to lend British Columbia teachers \$5 million to see their struggles through.

Helen Wilkins from Cardiff; Beverly Bernardo from Toronto; and Paul Kouri from Vancouver contributed to this column.

LETTERS

'Support our troops'

Concerning the slogan "Support our troops": with much thought and discussion, I have come to the conclusion that the *Militant* is right. After the horrendous bombing of the Iraqi people to "support our troops," we have to say that even coupled with "Bring them home now," it is a racist slogan. The lives of "foreign" workers, by implication, are worthless — ours are precious.

The whole obscene Gulf war (and past and future wars) must tell us that the monster that is Imperialism must go. All we do and say has to be uncompromisingly anticapitalist and internationalist. "Workers of the world unite" is more relevant than ever.

Bea Bryant
Blenheim, Ontario
Canada

Explain protectorate

The headline of the March 8th *Militant* says "Iraqi protectorate is U.S. goal." I would guess that many if not most of the people who saw that headline don't know what a

protectorate is.

My impression is that it is a state with more sovereignty than a colony but less sovereignty than a fully independent state. For example, Cuba in the first third of this century had an amendment in its constitution, the Platt Amendment, which permitted the United States to intervene militarily in Cuba's internal affairs. This amendment registered Cuba's status as a U.S. protectorate during that period. Is this example correct?

In any case, it would be useful to have an article explaining what a protectorate is and giving some examples and some history.

Tony Prince
Greensboro, North Carolina

Nebraska farmers

The *Militant* and Pathfinder literature received a friendly response from small farmers at the annual meeting of the Nebraska Sustainable Agriculture Society.

The conference of approximately 100 farmers and farm activists took place February 23, the day the ground war started in the Middle

East. Most of those present had not made up their minds about the U.S.-led war.

Staffing the Pathfinder table were two socialist meat-packers who were able to have discussions with many farmers. They sold 1 copy of the Pathfinder book *U.S. Hands Off the Mideast! Cuba Speaks Out at the United Nations*, one *Militant* subscription, 5 single copies of the *Militant*, and 4 copies of the *International Socialist Review*.

Lee Oleson
Omaha, Nebraska

Infant mortality

After once postponing a visit to Cleveland, President George Bush has canceled his plans altogether. The visit was to have publicized a Bush proposal to give federal grants to 10 U.S. cities with high infant mortality rates. Cleveland is one of the highest, with 16 deaths per 1,000 live births.

Cancellation of the visit is fueling speculation that the proposal itself is on the ropes.

The Cincinnati Area Coalition



Steve Kelley

Against U.S. Intervention in the Middle East recently highlighted some of the economic costs of the war. Two million dollars to launch two Patriot missiles would provide medical care for 13,000 homeless children through a mobile medical program. The cost of 4.5 hours of the war equals the total annual federal budget commitment to adult literacy programs.

Marty Pettit
Cleveland, Ohio

Vietnam syndrome

I just read a major front-page article in the *Militant* on the war in the Middle East. In that article, the reporter talks about the Vietnam syndrome without explaining what it is.

In a future article could you please explain in a clear and precise way just what is meant by the term Vietnam syndrome?

Melvin Chappell
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Economics of Mideast

As the U.S.-British alliance advances in the fifth and final stage of the conflict in the Mideast, I think there is one particular area the *Militant* needs to cover. The paper has had numerous explanations of Washington's need to establish a protectorate in Iraq, and how the war has as a major component a conflict between Washington and other imperialist powers.

The explanations of the economic relations in the region have been too general. It is correct to explain that while the U.S. only imports 5 percent of its oil from the Mideast, the oil monopolies control the distribu-

tion worldwide. But this should be quantified.

I would like to see an article that gives a factual analysis of the economics of imperialist control in the Mideast. The *Militant* has done such features during previous "oil crises." Such an article could take up questions such as:

Who are the giant oil monopolies that control world oil production and pricing? Who does Japan buy its oil from? The same for Germany.

What are the French investments in Iraq? Who controls the shipping in and out of the Gulf? Who does the Soviet Union sell its oil to? What was OPEC and why was it founded?

Mike Shur
Phoenix, Arizona

Cover Northern Ireland

Please give some coverage to the appalling conditions in which Irish Catholics live, under the dominance of Britain and the bigoted Unionists in Northern Ireland. Thank you.

G.M.
New York, New York

More on Cuba

I want to read more articles about Cuba today.

C.M.
Boston, Massachusetts

The letters column is an open forum for all viewpoints on subjects of general interest to our readers. Please keep your letters brief. Where necessary they will be abridged. Please indicate if you prefer that your initials be used rather than your full name.

British miners astounded by conditions at Alabama mine

I work at a coal mine in Yorkshire, England, and was astounded when I read John Hawkins' article in the February 15th issue of the *Militant* titled "Alabama miners push back company attack on safety."

When I showed the article to my workmates, their reaction was the same. Comments ranged from "I wouldn't like to work in a mine that used that type of ventilation system" to "My God, where's this?" to "It's suicidal."

It's quite obvious that Jim Walter Resources No. 5 mine is out to make 100-percent-plus profit at any cost. Putting profit before miners' lives is unacceptable to miners anywhere in the world.

In Britain coal is mined in a different way than that at the No. 5 mine in Alabama. There are two roadways (tunnels) to the longwall face. The Loader

Gate sends the coal out of the mine and brings air to the face, whilst the Tail Gate acts as a return airway back to the surface. There are no pillars of coal in these two gates, thus allowing the Gob area to collapse behind the face.

In the British coalfields many different methods of ventilation are used but they all end up doing the same job. Where I work we use what is called the "back over return" system. Two full-time Methane Borers bore holes both up and down into the roof and floor, pointing at the coal face at regular intervals. The methane is drained away by two pipes out of the Tail Gate into one big pipe which takes the gas to the surface.

Both the Methane Borers and the officials in the National Association of Colliery Overmen Deputies & Shotfirers constantly test for mine gasses, using a va-

riety of electronic detectors. Strict plans are laid down for the withdrawal of workers in the event of a sudden buildup of methane.

However, none of the safety procedures in British mines has been handed down by British Coal or its predecessor, the National Coal Board. Decades of hard-fought struggle by British miners led by their union, the National Union of Mineworkers, has won these safer working conditions.

Now, as British Coal attempts to prepare the industry for privatization by continuing its drive toward a six-day week, six and seven days coaling in overtime, and the increased use of private contractors, British miners will be faced with the need to fight again to defend their past gains.

Jim Spaul
Yorkshire, England

'Daily News' strikers return to work

All nine unions approve contract with paper's new owner

BY NANCY ROSENSTOCK

NEW YORK — After 148 days on the picket line, strikers at the *Daily News* returned to work March 21.

Workers in all nine striking unions approved contracts with the new owner of the paper, Robert Maxwell, days prior to the lockout's end.

Maxwell signed a letter of intent to buy the *Daily News* in early March, stating the deal would only go through if the unions granted major concessions. If not, he said, the paper would be closed.

Concessions of \$70 million, including layoffs, negotiated with Maxwell by the union officials were agreed to in a round of mid-March union meetings.

The paper had been owned by the Chicago-based Tribune Company. Pleading poverty and promising to invest in new machinery, the paper's management had convinced the unions to give tens of millions of dollars in concessions in 1982 and again in 1987. The company, however, never bought the new equipment and opened contract talks last year by demanding millions more in concessions and sweeping control over work hours and conditions.

'Union survived'

Many rank and file unionists interviewed felt they had put up a hard fight against the lockout and union-busting drive by the *Daily News* management.

The unionists stood up to company intimidation and strike-breaking moves, won solidarity from working people in New York, and mobilized support to keep their fight going and the paper off the city's streets.

"The Tribune Company has been defeated," said pressman Dan McPhee. "The union has survived."

A mailer interviewed at the Brooklyn printing plant after his first night back at work said: "It's great to be back. We beat them. But you know on the picket line we were all pulling together. Now they are already trying to get us to be like animals,

fighting each other all the time."

Under the deal, the Tribune Company will pay Maxwell \$60 million in exchange for his taking over up to \$150 million in the company's liabilities.

Maxwell, a British billionaire, fully or partially owns the London tabloid the *Daily Mirror*, Macmillan Publishing, Pergamon Press, and other printing concerns.

He is well-known in Britain for his anti-union assaults. The March 17 *New York Times* reported on a one-day strike in May 1989 by members of the National Union of Journalists (NUJ) in Britain over the rights of union employees to be represented by the union at a disciplinary hearing. Maxwell's Pergamon Press immediately fired 23 workers, who became known as the Pergamon 23. The unionists are still fighting for reinstatement and full company recognition of their union.

Jim Boumelha, head of the Pergamon Press NUJ chapter, told the *Times*, "He's just a ruthless capitalist, a union-basher."

Company assault on unions

The 2,200 workers at the *Daily News* were locked out by the company on October 24 after working without a contract for seven months.

Management spent millions preparing for a lockout or strike. A Sears warehouse in New Jersey was bought by the company and set up as an alternate location to print the paper. Dubbed by the strikers "Fort Jim Hoge," the facility was surrounded with a barbed-wire fence and guards at the gates. James Hoge is the *Daily News*' publisher.

In March 1989 Hoge hired King and Ballou, a Tennessee law firm with a reputation for busting newspaper unions.

On the eve of the March 30, 1990, contract-expiration date, the *Daily News* began to recruit reporters from its papers in Orlando and Fort Lauderdale, Florida, and Newport News, Virginia, to be strike-breakers. They also began to train editors and managers to run printing presses at the

Fort Lauderdale plant.

An intense campaign of harassment, intimidation, and firings was aimed at the workers. Between May 1989 and May 1990, the security force at the company grew from 45 to 150. Guards, hired to patrol the press floor, were often accompanied by attack dogs.

Called "brownshirts" by the workers, the guards were posted at entrances and exits to the three printing plants. Workers' personal belongings were often checked. The conditions were "like a corrections facility," strikers said. Arbitrary suspensions and firings were used by the bosses to try to intimidate the work force.

On October 25 some union members walked out after the company dismissed a worker suffering an on-the-job injury for sitting down, although he had a doctor's note. The company then locked the workers out and within an hour a bus loaded with scabs was brought in. The eight other unions at the company joined the walkout in solidarity.

The paper came off the presses with a scab work force every day. It was the first time a major New York paper published during a strike.

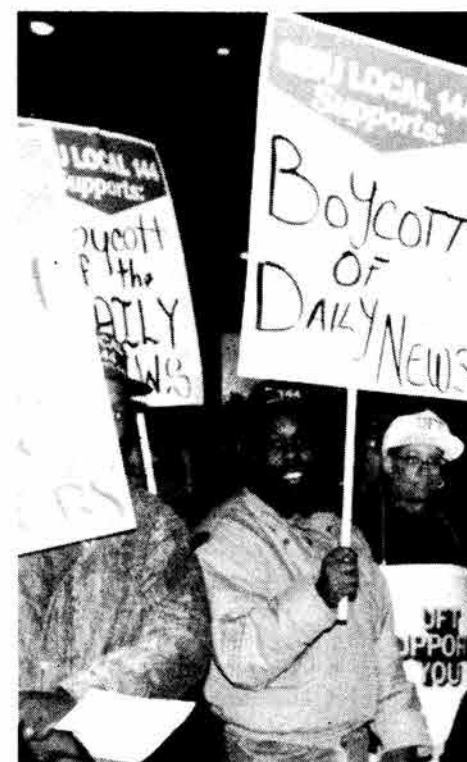
Solidarity from working people

But the company miscalculated. Although they could print the paper, millions of New Yorkers saw the fight by the unionists at the *Daily News* as their own and refused to purchase the paper. Moreover, many encouraged newsstands not to carry it.

Combined with maintaining picket lines, the successful campaign to keep the *Daily News* off the streets caused circulation to plummet. Major advertisers pulled out, costing the *Daily News* millions in lost revenue. The company was soon losing \$750,000 a day.

Strikers held several large rallies through the course of their fight and won backing for their strike from other unions in the city.

Before the strike, the city's 10,000 newsstands accounted for more than 80 percent



Militant/Marc Lichtman

December rally in support of *Daily News* strikers in New York.

of the paper's circulation, the other 20 percent came from home deliveries. Charles Brumback, a top executive of the Tribune Company, said in an interview that, "Getting the paper distributed is a major problem. Planning in that area was not up to par."

Despite company claims that the circulation rose to 600,000, most outside studies disputed this figure. In a report released by the Newspaper Guild, one of the nine striking unions, circulation had fallen to a third of the prestrike level of 1.1 million.

Rough company tactics

The company utilized a massive police force to guard its facilities and hired professional gun thugs to intimidate the strikers. Many dressed in black jump suits with matching berets, some with "Ninja-style" face masks, and guarded piles of *Daily News* at area newsstands. A campaign by the company to portray the strikers as violent did not ring true to most working people who saw the violence coming from the company.

In its March 17 "In Review" section, the *New York Times* summed up the effects of the strike. "As a business, the *News* had been killed by the union," the paper said.

Under the unions' agreement with Maxwell, all "replacement workers," those hired during the strike, will be terminated.

Major concessions were agreed to in the new contracts. Some 800 jobs, or a third of the work force, will be eliminated. John Kennedy, president of the pressmen's union, announced that nearly half of the 400 pressmen's jobs would be cut.

The drivers' union will lose 252 jobs, down to 450 workers from its prestrike level of 702. The Newspaper Guild will lose 238 workers, down to 521 from 759. The pressmen's new contract will lower the number of workers on each press from its pre-strike level of 12 or 13 to 9.

Maxwell has offered a \$40,000 buyout to workers who retire early. All of the unions agreed to give up five days of personal leave or vacation.

Some strikers interviewed said too much had been given up to Maxwell. "We won on the picket line, but lost at the negotiating table," one pressman said.

"We lost 50 years in this contract," Charlie Rossi, a union driver, said. "This is what I walked the picket line for? We gave up too much."

Many strikers feel that the deal worked out with Maxwell was the best they could get at this time. They pointed to the fact that the replacement workers are out and the union is in. The workers are upset about the loss of union jobs, but say that the Tribune Company was out to bust the unions and was not successful.

Socialist candidates win ballot status

West Virginia campaign has fought for years to gain access to ballot.

BY ILONA GERSH

CHARLESTON, West Virginia — In a victory for democratic rights Socialist Workers Party candidates for city office here won ballot status for the April 15 municipal elections.

"The Socialist Workers Party has fought for years for the right of third party and independent candidates to officially run in the elections," said SWP mayoral candidate Linda Joyce at a March 8 news conference when filing nominating petitions. "These efforts have been repeatedly blocked by the burdensome and restrictive election code in West Virginia that the Democrats and Republicans use to keep every other party off the ballot."

The news conference was covered by two television stations, the Associated Press, and both Charleston newspapers. Joyce is a laid-off construction worker and member of Local 298 of the International Association of Machinists. The Charleston press also carried articles several days later on the official gaining of ballot status by the socialists.

In addition to Joyce, Mark Wyatt and Mary Nell Bockman are running on the SWP ticket for city council at-large.

Last fall, Secretary of State Ken Hechler ruled SWP candidates off the ballot for statewide election even though the party had collected 10,000 signatures — well over the

number required. The election law stipulates that anyone signing petitions for the socialist candidates cannot vote in the Democratic or Republican party primary elections. The American Civil Liberties Union filed a challenge to the undemocratic ballot laws and petitioned the U.S. Supreme Court, but the court refused to hear the case.

In Charleston, however, ballot laws are somewhat less restrictive. To qualify for the April ballot the socialist candidates were required to file at least 134 signatures and a \$670 filing fee. The candidates submitted 414 names and are appealing to ballot rights supporters to make donations to help defray the fee.

Joyce and her campaign supporters traveled to Ravenswood, West Virginia, to participate in a March 10 solidarity rally for 1,700 steelworkers locked out since last November by the Ravenswood Aluminum Corp. Hundreds of campaign statements pledging solidarity with the strikers were distributed to the 1,200 people in attendance by Joyce and her supporters.

Following the rally, Joyce appeared live on an ABC-TV affiliate's six o'clock news program. Dressed in a Steelworkers-solidarity sweatshirt, Joyce explained, "The Ravenswood workers have news for everyone in the valley. They are going to stay out until they win." She said her campaign will champion the fights of all working people against attacks from the employers.

Joyce and a four-person team of supporters spent a day on the picket line, and visited various Steelworker strike offices. "Everywhere we went, strikers said they had seen me on television and thanked the campaign



Militant/Tom Nichols

Socialist Workers Party mayoral candidate Linda Joyce.

for its support to their struggle," Joyce said.

The campaign team had numerous discussions with strikers about the recent U.S. war in the Middle East, the bosses' attempts to bust the unions, the capitalist economic crisis, and how to win support for the struggle at Ravenswood.

One striker said, "We need a third party, a labor party. I've heard about this trickle-down theory. But what workers need is a trickle-up theory, where we get the resources and the rich have to grab at the crumbs."